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Demand for Met Office report as 18 die in night of disaster

Wasted warnings of the storm

- Eighteen people died and hundreds were injured as yesterday's storm, the worst in memory, left a trail of destruction as they cut across southern England
- The Government demanded an urgent report from the Meteorological Office into its failure to alert the nation to the impending storms
- The Met Office was warned of the risk of very high winds four days ago by the most sophisticated weather forecasting computer in the world
- The devastation left by the gales could cost up to £300 million in insurance claims, although earlier estimates put the figure at around £100 million

By Tony Dave, Nicholas Wood and Robert Matthews

Government ministers demanded an urgent report last night from the Meteorological Office into why it failed to alert the nation to the worst storms in living memory. The almost hurricane-force storm claimed at least 18 lives, cut electricity to millions of homes, and caused £100 million of damage early yesterday.

After a meeting of senior ministers, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said the storms had caused "the most widespread night of disaster in the south-east of England since 1945". Yet the Met Office failed to anticipate their severity and the route they would take.

The Times learnt last night that a warning of the risk of very high winds four days ago by the most sophisticated weather forecasting computer in the world.

The French Meteorological

Department acted on the warning, carried out its own checks and issued an alert broadcast on French radio and television on Thursday afternoon. Although the country suffered even higher winds than Britain, no deaths were reported.

Yet here 18 people died and hundreds were injured as the storms, according to the London Weather Centre,

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"came from nowhere". Last night the Met Office admitted that it had failed to appreciate the strength of the storms, and Mr Hurd said that it clearly had "lessons to learn".

Government sources said yesterday that the emergency services were not warned of the fast-approaching gales until midnight, a few hours before the storm struck, laying waste a vast swathe of southern England.

Mr Hurd told a hurriedly arranged press conference at the Home Office: "I did make some inquiries in that direction. Two things occurred. The storm took a different course from the one expected - a more westerly course - and it had that extra 15 to 20 mph on the wind speed which caused much of the difficulty."

But clearly the Met Office will want to look at their experience and our experience in the last 24 hours to see if anything can be done to improve their predictions."

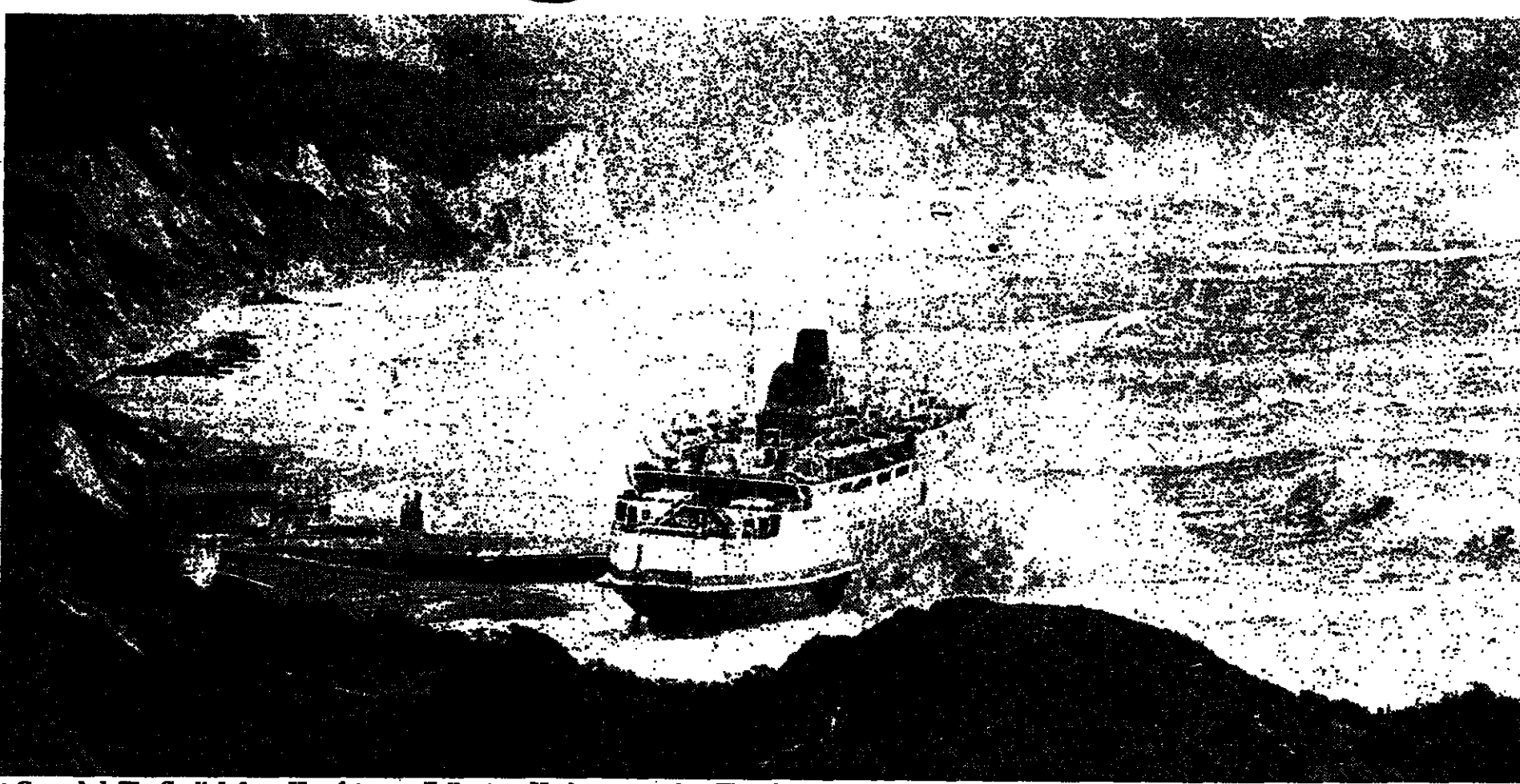
The Met Office comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence and there was speculation last night at Westminster that Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State, will want a full account of what went wrong.

The gusting winds and incessant rain brought death and destruction but also tore at the very fabric of southern England. Some homes simply disappeared in the face of the onslaught. Thousands more were damaged, together with shops and hotels. Vast tracts of woodland were flattened.

The very intensity of the storm, classified as a "force 11 violent storm" at its height, terrified millions of people, who had to endure it in the dark as power supplies failed throughout London and southern England. Telephone lines were cut or failed under the weight of calls. Transport services were at a standstill, with no train running on Southern Region yesterday morning.

Last night hundreds of minor roads remained blocked in southern England and are likely to remain so for days as scores of fallen trees have to be cleared. Thousands of homes in rural areas were still without electricity more than 24 hours after being cut off.

Both the Queen and the Prime Minister sent messages



Grounded: The Sealink ferry Hengist near Folkestone Harbour yesterday. The 22 crew members on board were taken off unharmed. (Photograph: Paul Amos)

of condolence from Vancouver, Canada, where they are attending the Commonwealth conference, to relatives of the victims. After being briefed by Mr Hurd, the Prime Minister also sent congratulations to the emergency services, which received more calls for help than ever in their history.

The storms first hit the northern French coast and the Channel Islands at about 2 am yesterday. Gusts of 134 mph were recorded on the Normandy coast, and of 110 mph in Guernsey - the highest in the British Isles. The island suffered widespread damage, with hundreds of the greenhouses, which provide many residents with a living, demolished.

The winds then hit Hampshire and Dorset with particular severity. Police in both counties reported that virtually every road was blocked by at least one tree. Among the first victims were two firemen, killed at Highcliffe, Dorset, when an oak tree crashed on their water tender as they answered an emergency call.

Severe flooding and 90 mph gusts were reported in the West Country, but more casualties were suffered along the south coast and in the Home Counties. Two guests

died in hotels at Windsor and Hastings, as part of the buildings collapsed. Three other people died in their own beds as roofs, chimneys and trees crashed down.

In the Channel and the North Sea, ships ran for cover, some with more success than others. More than 800 pas-

senger were stranded on two Channel ferries unable to get into port at Dover and Harwich because of high seas.

The Sealink ferry, Hengist, was blown around close to Folkestone harbour, but it was carrying no passengers and the crew of 22 were rescued by breeches-buoys.

At Dover two seamen from Singapore were feared drowned after the British-registered bulk carrier, Summa, capsized. Gales as high as 100 knots almost smashed it into the Dover

harbour wall before it bobbed dangerously near the entrance and suddenly keeled over. "The seas were murderous. We could hardly see anything with huge waves, a wall of spray and the lashing wind," said a coastguard spokesman. "One of the tugs which went out to the vessel said it turned

closed. Markets for base metals and futures in cocoa, coffee, raw sugar and energy were shut all day, but the share quotation system was reinstated at noon, three hours after suspension.

Winds of change, page 25
Stock market, page 26

Share trading suspended in the City

The Stock Exchange was forced to suspend its screen-based share trading system as gales stopped commuters from getting to work and put much of the City out of action. But despite its first suspension since Big Bang last October, the exchange did not stay

closed. Markets for base metals and futures in cocoa, coffee, raw sugar and energy were shut all day, but the share quotation system was reinstated at noon, three hours after suspension.

Winds of change, page 25
Stock market, page 26

Two major alerts were declared in the North Sea as a support vessel with 79 people on board broke down and began drifting towards gas drilling platforms and a chemical tanker broke free from its moorings in Felixstowe harbour. Emergency services averted disasters on both

Continued on page 24, col 1



Crushed: A victim of the storm in Eaton Square, central London. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Peacetime echo of the blitz

By Brian James

When future generations crowd at the knee to ask "What did you do in the Great War, Daddy?" the boldest will answer for sure: "I walked." As London awoke yesterday from a night when even its bravest buildings seemed to be howling, it was to darkness and to stillness.

Then the first humans came into view. They looked footsore but triumphant, coming together in twos and threes to walk together in streets without traffic to destinations in office blocks without lights. "How's your house?" was an invariable greeting, uttered with an almost superstitious awe.

As they walked, they talked with stoic modesty: "Well, I was lucky. Got a lift on a bread van to Kingston. Then this bus came. Never been to the Elephant before, but I thought I would save me a mile or so, I thought 'here goes'. Only took me an hour after that."

They walked looking about them at the bizarre. The poplars standing on a traffic island. The traffic cone in the window of a sandwich bar. The deckchair atop a bush in St James's Park; the racing skiff from the Serpentine, now embedded in the branches of a tree. A man in the electricity showroom, pumping at a gas burner to brew tea.

They walked looking up, eyes drawn skyward by the sight of anxious-looking policemen patrolling the miles of blue and white tape now cordoning off so many of the city streets. This awe, a memory, of other mornings after even noisier and more dangerous nights: a pale peacetime echo of the blitz. But this PC gazing skywards was looking for the 14th-storey window left open to bang all night and now as potentially lethal as an unexploded 200-pounder.

Continued on page 24, col 4

Insurers expect record claims

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The trail of devastation left by the gales could cost up to £300 million, it was being suggested yesterday, though earlier estimates had put the figure at £100 million.

Mr Robin Mitra, an insurance analyst with County NatWest, the broking arm of the National Westminster bank, said: "We have never experienced anything like this."

He refused to try to forecast a final figure but admitted he would not be surprised if it exceeded £300 million.

The Association of British Insurers expects the cost to be more than last year's total but cannot yet estimate the final bill. It will almost certainly be the highest total in recent memory for predominantly gale damage.

However, some experts think it is unlikely to rival the £126 million cost of the devastating gales and floods of January 1976, or the £195 million worth of damage in the winter of 1984.

Last year's nationwide gales in March cost the insurance companies about £55 million,

and although the sometimes hurricane-force winds early yesterday were not as widespread as in 1986 they have caused more damage. The association, which represents more than 425 insurance companies responsible for some 90 per cent of the worldwide business of the British insurance company market, yesterday advised people whose property was damaged not to ring their insurance companies, but to get the builders in.

Mr Mike Jones, a spokesman for the association, said that building insurance policies covered storm and gale damage. But while garden sheds were likely to be covered, fences, gates and paths might not be. Motorists will have claims met for damage from falling trees provided they have comprehensive cover.

If a tree falls on a property from a neighbouring property it is usual for the owner of the damaged property to claim on his or her insurance.

It is too early to say whether policyholders will face higher premiums as a result of the cost of the damage.

Operation for Mrs Reagan

Washington - Mrs Nancy Reagan is to have an operation today for the removal of a lump in her left breast, which might turn out to be cancerous (Michael Binyon writes).

She will undergo surgery at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where President Reagan had his cancer operation in 1985, and a biopsy will then be performed on the tissue. Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said President Reagan would remain in the hospital with his wife tomorrow.

The results of the analysis will be available in about a week and surgeons from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, who will perform the operation, will then decide, if cancer is found, whether a further operation is necessary. Mr Fitzwater refused to speculate on a mastectomy, but said Mrs Reagan had discussed "all options" with her doctors.

IN PART 2

Good gold

Four new gold coins produced by the Royal Mint could turn out to be a patriotic investment.

Family Money, pages 32-42

Pakistan win

Abdul Qadir hit two runs off the last ball of the final over to give Pakistan a one-wicket victory over West Indies in the World Cup. Page 44

Portfolio £24,000 to be won

● There is £24,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competitions - £16,000 in the weekly contest and £8,000 in the daily, both double the usual amount as there were no winners last Saturday or yesterday.
● Portfolio list, page 31; weekly check, page 41.

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Lawson on target for tax cuts

Government borrowing is well below the target set by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, opening the way for sizeable tax cuts next spring.

The public sector borrowing requirement last month was just £3.5 million, and this year's borrowing is £1.5 billion below last year's, after allowing for privatisation.

PSBR down, page 25

Seelig on bail of £500,000

Mr Roger Seelig, the former Morgan Grenfell banker facing 12 charges arising from the Guinness affair, was remanded on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday. Bail was provided by Sir Terence Courran, the chairman of Storehouse, and Mr Paul Hamlyn, the publishing magnate.

Charges denied, page 25

Reagan denounces attack on US-flagged Gulf tanker

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The White House strongly denounced yesterday's missile attack on the US-flagged Kuwaiti tanker Sea Isle City as "an outrageous act of aggression" but President Reagan declined to say whether the US would retaliate.

Following an emergency meeting with his top advisers, Mr Reagan said that no decisions had been taken although a full range of options had been discussed.

"I cannot and will not discuss what our future action may be," the President said. Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, confirmed that US officials were in close diplomatic contact with America's allies in the United Nations and with Kuwait on a possible response to the attack.

Earlier, senior congressional officials said that they would

support retaliation despite their continued doubts over US policy in the Gulf.

Mr Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said: "I would be fully supportive of taking retaliatory steps when Ameri-

cancelled the weekend visit to Camp David. There has been no indication here, however, how or whether the US will retaliate.

The attack is the first direct hit on one of the 11 Kuwaiti vessels under US protection, and follows a similar attack on a Liberian-registered tanker 24 hours earlier. The incidents will increase pressure here to strike back at Iran, especially after President Reagan's warning on Thursday that the US would defend itself if attacked.

But Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, appeared to be playing things down when he noted on his arrival in Israel that the Sea Isle City had not been in international waters or under US escort when hit. He called the strike an attack against Kuwait.

US officials have refused so far to blame Iran directly for the attack.

Distribution plan for NI publications

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

News International, publisher of The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun, News of the World and Today, is putting the wholesale distribution of its newspapers and supplements in England out to tender.

Businesses and individuals will be invited to put in a bid to distribute all News Inter-

national publications seven days a week in each of 182 districts, excluding London.

There are currently 1,000 wholesale distributors responsible for delivering Sunday newspapers to retailers and about 400 distributors carrying weekday publications.

The new scheme will come into force from February 1, but will not affect Scotland. Continued on page 24, col 8

This cutlery book has taken 85 years to write

It was in 1902 that my grandfather first started to design and produce his own quality silver plated and stainless steel cutlery. He also decided that if his cutlery was going to bear his name he was going to personally guarantee each and every piece.

Later my father continued this tradition and the range and company grew. 85 years later, I'm proud to say that our cutlery graces the tables of some of Britain's most famous homes.

The family tradition and guarantee continues and Arthur Price of England enjoys an unrivalled reputation throughout the world for producing the finest quality cutlery.

Our new full colour Sheffield Cutlery Album portrays our entire range. Page after page of the finest cutlery you can buy. Send now for your free copy and a very special £10 voucher. We think you'll find looking through our book time well spent - after all it's taken us 85 years to write it.

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WEATHER SUMMARY

Europe suffers flood damage

Thursday night's storm hit Spain earlier than the rest of Europe reaching its greatest intensity there late last Wednesday night and Thursday morning - after two days' advance warning from the Spanish Weather Bureau. The main problems were caused by heavy rainfall and flooding, and one person is known to have died.

Torrential rain and gale force winds killed four people and injured nine others in Portugal, with chaos continuing well through the day. In Marco de Canaveses, 25 miles east of the northern city of Oporto, six workmen building a bridge fell into a river when their scaffolding collapsed. One died in the fall, four were injured and one is still missing.

In northern France, violent storms left a trail of devastation, with one person dead and 15 injured. As in southern England, hurricane force winds pulled up trees, tore down houses and overturned cars and yachts moored in harbours. A cyclist was killed when he was thrown against a tree and a young girl seriously injured when the chimney of her house fell into her bedroom.

Ronson rescue

Mr Gerald Ronson, the businessman, and Mr David Hanlon, his chauffeur, rescued an office worker in the gales yesterday after she was trapped by a collapsed wall when a tree crashed on top.

Mr Ronson, charged this week in connection with the Guinness affair, was being driven to work in his Bentley along Baker Street in central London. Mr Ronson said: "It was a miracle she did not die. We got her out and took care of her. Dave later drove her to work."

Postal delays

The Post Office attempted to keep mail moving in spite of the storms but officials are planning to introduce extra deliveries over the weekend to deal with the worst backlogs.

Dr Peter Rickard, director for Royal Mail Letters Network, said: "Our immediate aim is to use whatever transport means we have at our disposal to get mail through to local offices and we are considering special weekend deliveries."

Delays would be inevitable.

Blitz spirit 'missing'

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday clashed with the Government over the impact of the weather and said more people should have displayed a "blitz spirit".

Despite stay-at-home warnings from the police and government ministers, the CBI was critical of those who failed to get to work.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, had said repeatedly that unless absolutely necessary people should stay at home but Mr Keith McDowell, CBI deputy director general, said: "It wasn't an earthquake." He added: "Perhaps if more encouragement had been given to get to work as applied in the blitz it might have yielded better results."

Help for gas rig

Forty workers on a North Sea gas rig were evacuated by helicopter yesterday in a rescue operation because of gusts up to 100 mph.

They were taken off the "Zapata Bonanza" in the Viking gas field, 60 miles off Spurn Point, because of the danger of collision with a drifting semi-submersible diving vessel, driven on to a sand bank by the gales.

Later the Dutch supply vessel, the Smit Lloyd 26, steered the diving vessel away. Coastguards in Great Yarmouth said that there had been no injuries.

Tower fears

About 200 people were evacuated from a 16-storey tower block in south London, which it was feared might collapse after winds devastated a thirteenth-floor flat.

The two-bedroom corner flat was left without exterior walls and its occupants, Mr David Wood, a Civil Servant, and his wife Christine described how they struggled to avoid being "sucked out into the air" by the gusts' vacuum effect.

Mrs Wood was taken to hospital suffering severe shock.

Cheques postponed

House buyers who were due to move yesterday could face a weekend without a home after their completion cheques could not be cleared yesterday because of the storms.

The Bank of England's automatic computer fund-transfer system, which most banks use to carry out house purchase completions, was brought to a halt by the appalling weather conditions.

The bank postponed settlement clearing for a day until Monday because the City did not have enough staff to carry out the work. A spokesman agreed that the delay could have far-reaching effects.

The night chaos and terror came



Storm casualties: Dangerously balanced scaffolding in St Thomas More Street, east London (left); overturned planes on the runway of Shoreham airfield, west Sussex (top right); a shattered brick wall in central London (centre) and (right) an uprooted tree smashed against a house in Horley, West Sussex.

London authorities call for emergency aid plan

By David Walker

The Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities yesterday told the Government that the capital would need emergency assistance worth millions of pounds to offset the cost of clearing up after the storm.

In a letter to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, the association said that London boroughs needed special grants and a waiver from the loss of grants that they would incur if forced to overspend because of repairs and road clearance.

It praised the response of the emergency services but said that action would have been better co-ordinated if London still had a single council such as the former Greater London Council.

"London's in chaos. We now see why London needs a strategic authority to do co-ordinating work in a situation like this", it said.

The Conservative-controlled

London Boroughs' Association took a more cautious view.

Its clerk, Mr Rodney Brooke, chief executive of Westminster, said that councillors would receive reports on the estimated cost of storm damage only after the weekend, and then they could decide whether there was a case for approaching the Government for special grants.

Westminster council has already launched a "tree appeal" in an attempt to replace some of those lost during the storm.

A finance officer with Croydon council said that "it would have to be a very large disaster for a debt to be made in the borough's total budget of £200 million plus".

The council would attempt to accommodate any extra spending within its existing budget.

All councils make some

provision within their contingency funds for natural upsets, and the Government expects local authorities to pay unless the incidents are graded as "disasters".

The last such incident was the heavy snow in the winter of 1981-82 when the Government agreed to pay 75 per cent of any spending incurred by councils over and above the product of a penny rate.

For the counties of England and Wales that amounted to the Government contributing £10 million to a total bill of £185 million.

One official said that both snow and floods caused more damage, mostly affecting underground services.

But before the Government thinks of paying out any money it will investigate councils' insurance arrangements. Some councils, which own large amounts of property, do not insure them with underwriters but carry the risk on their own account.

Electricity cut to 3 million consumers

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

An estimated three million electricity consumers were affected by yesterday's power cuts and the Electricity Council has warned that for many it will be early next week before supplies can be restored.

London was the worst hit with 1.7 million domestic, commercial and industrial customers affected but by mid afternoon all had been reconnected.

In the Eastern Board area which covers Essex, Hertfordshire and East Anglia, many customers were cut off after falling trees damaged local supply lines. The board has said that because of the isolated nature of many of the villages it is impossible to say exactly how many customers are still without power or when they might have supplies restored.

In the Southern Board area which covers Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, 100,000 to 200,000 customers were still without power late yesterday. For many it may be Sunday before local supply lines can be repaired.

Half a million customers were affected in South Eastern Board area which covers Kent and Sussex. The damage to supply lines has been so extensive that many customers may be without power until Monday.

Priority in the restoration of power is being given to households with elderly or sick people and young children.

The speed with which the National Grid was back in action supplies were interrupted for just over six hours - is being cited as a grim demonstration of the dangers of dismantling it under privatization.

The interruptions to the National Grid heavy voltage lines started at around 4 am and by 10.30 am most had been repaired, the CEBG said.

The first indication of trouble came when lines from the Dungeness nuclear power station automatically cut supplies after wind damage at 4 am. Flying debris, branches, strips of plastic and aluminium crashed into the high voltage lines causing short circuits.

The same lines take power from the cross-Channel link, which also ceased to function. Several stations had to stop their output.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, who visited the CEBG national control centre early yesterday, praised the workers there for limiting the damage.

Photographers

Photographs of the weather havoc are by: Peter Trievnor, Vernon Durrant, John Rogers, Alan Weller, Tim Bishop, Graham Wood, Julian Herbert, Paul Lovelace, Hugh Routledge, Nick Rogers, Peter Simpson.

Shops face boom in DIY tool sales

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Chain stores reported an unprecedented demand for tools and materials yesterday to cope with the trail of storm damage as householders prepared for the country's biggest ever DIY weekend.

B&Q, Britain's biggest DIY retailer, was rushing an extra £4.5 million in materials to its 247 stores around the country to cope with the even greater demand anticipated today as householders tackle smashed roofs, tiles, gutters and fences.

One of B&Q's stores was closed at Maidstone, Kent, because the roof had blown off but all the rest will have longer opening today, from 8 am to 8 pm, to meet the expected demand.

Mr Bill Whiting, the marketing director, said: "Early demand was for equipment like chain saws to deal with immediate emergencies like blown over trees. There has also been a big demand for tarpaulins and plastic sheets."

The chain was sending out to its stores additional supplies of materials such as plastic roof sheets, roofing felt, guttering and down pipes and flashing.

The biggest demand expected is for fence posts and panels. Bad weather last spring saw sales of such items double over six weeks. Mr Whiting said: "We are putting another 35 miles of fencing into the stores. It means we will have in stock around the group about 200 miles of fencing."

John Lewis Partnership, which has 21 department stores and 83 Waitrose supermarkets in the south of England, said standby generators were available for food shops to keep refrigeration cabinets working during a power cut.

The John Lewis department store in Oxford Street, central London, was closed until 10 am because of staffing difficulties.

Why the fishermen of Kerala set sail in a pappadam.

Not long ago, the poor fishermen of Kerala, in Southern India, found their livelihood - and even their lives - threatened. Not because of a famine or drought, but because of a shortage of giant mango trees.

The fishermen traditionally made their boats from the trees. But the trees became scarce - and the price of timber rose rapidly.

Soon many fishermen couldn't afford new boats and were forced to make do with old, patched boats that were liable to sink or capsize. Luckily, Intermediate Technology was able to help. The boat that has changed lives.

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The fishermen cherished it the 'pappadam canoe'. But they soon found it was roomier and easier to manoeuvre than the boats they were used to. Now hundreds of families are using the new boats - and they have started their own business to build and repair them.

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A storm-devastated caravan site at Newhaven, East Sussex (above); untypical scene in Whitehall (top right) and (right) Dr Brinsey Burbidge, head of information at Kew Gardens, with fallen plane tree and damaged palm house in background.

Countryside counts the toll of uprooted trees

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Hundreds of thousands of trees, many of which will not be replaced for generations, have been uprooted and destroyed by the hurricane force winds which swept across southern and eastern England on Thursday night.

The devastation is by far the worst that has occurred since the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease, which wiped out about 20 million trees in the late 1960s and 1970s.

A national assessment was impossible yesterday as workmen struggled to clear blocked communications and to forestall further danger from damaged trees and branches.

Claims were pouring in to the headquarters of the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Society in London after farmers throughout the South and East suffered stock losses, damage to buildings and power cuts.

The NFU said that farmhouses, grain stores, barns, livestock units and glasshouses had all been damaged, some seriously, in the hurricane-force winds.

At one poultry unit in Essex, 17,000 birds had been killed or would have to be destroyed. In East Sussex, a tree had fallen across a building containing dairy cow and calf pens.

Grain store roofs were ripped off as far north as Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Recently harvested crops exposed to the storms which could not be covered by emergency sheeting were also damaged. The power cuts disrupted milking operations and cold stores. Any fruit still left on trees was destroyed.

In the horticultural area of West Sussex, between Worthing and Chichester, whole glasshouses were flattened and damage was provisionally estimated at nearly £3 million.

An NFU official said: "I have spoken to many farmers and growers, and without exception they have said they have never known anything like it."

Some of the worst devastation occurred in the New

Forest, where Mr Roger Newlands, the Forestry Commission's operations manager, said that hundreds of trees had been uprooted.

Live electricity power lines entangled in fallen trees and branches were hindering the efforts of about 75 staff who were working to clear roads and damaged trees in the area.

Mr Newlands said: "It is the worst we can ever remember. We have had storms and

At least 3,000 schools in London and the South-east were shut yesterday and more than 500,000 pupils stayed at home.

Some schools lost their roofs, temporary classrooms were blown away and playground walls collapsed.

Kent County Council decided soon after dawn not to open any of its 700 schools. Suffolk, with 360 schools, followed suit a few hours later. About 30 Suffolk schools were damaged, many by falling trees.

Nearly half the 950 schools in inner London were shut. In East Sussex, all but a handful of the county's 300 schools were closed. More than 50 were badly damaged.

heavy snowfalls before, but never anything like this."

In Kent, the town of Sevenoaks lost six of the trees on which its name rested. The commission offered to replace them with a gift of new saplings.

A spokesman at its Edinburgh headquarters said that damage to Thetford Forest, Norfolk, and the area around Woodbridge, Suffolk, was also bad. Some areas in Northamptonshire had been evacuated.

He said that it would be Monday at the earliest before a preliminary overall assessment of the losses could be made.

The Countryside Commission said that, beyond the immediate task of clearing up the damage, there would be a long-term loss to the environ-

ment. Mature trees could not be replaced quickly. The most vulnerable trees were those with shallow roots, mainly conifers, but some hardwood species, such as beeches and oaks, were also badly affected.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England expressed concern that so many trees were top heavy in terms of age. Older trees were particularly vulnerable to that sort of natural disaster, which highlighted the need for long-term replacement.

Tree surgeons said yesterday that they would be working for six months to clear up and repair fallen and damaged trees after the gale.

Mr Barry Still, of Kingston, south-west London, said he had received 400 emergency calls, including one from a woman whose baby escaped death by a few feet when a tree crashed into a bedroom.

Mr Still spent the afternoon clearing 30 fallen oak trees, all at least 200 years old, from a garden in Warren Road, Kingston, near Coombe Hill Golf Club.

He blamed local councils for the huge number of old oaks and beeches which were uprooted in the area. "Time and time again the lady who owns these oaks has asked permission to have them pruned and the council has refused because it is a conservation area. If they had not been top heavy, they would still be there."

Responsibility for clearing roads rests primarily with local authorities, who will also have to bear the cost of the operations.

Responsibility for removing trees and branches on private land which constitute a public hazard rests with the owners.

In the Home Counties, the average cost to householders with fallen trees will be nearly £100, with a large oak costing up to £400. An oak or beech with a thick trunk is worth £200 for the timber, although it will fetch much less because of a glut after the storms.

The man who had to juggle to bring back the power

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Tony Malins, national control manager of the Central Electricity Generating Board's national grid, was trying to sleep at his home in Flamstead, Hertfordshire, but he was being deflected by the rattle of his roof tiles.

The insistent ring of the bedside telephone at 10 past four finally dragged him awake and he reached to switch on the light. Nothing. The wind howled outside.

The caller was the duty engineer at the National Grid control centre, a high-security building near the south end of Southwark Bridge, south London, which controls the trunk electricity supply for England and Wales.

The news was bad. Just after 4 am the overhead transmission lines from Dungeness 'A' nuclear power station on the Kent coast had tripped out in the storm, instantly cutting off the station's 1,800 megawatt input to the grid. A potentially dangerous situation was developing.

Mr Malins quickly dressed and went to his car, but another, more immediate

problem confronted him: the road out of Flamstead village, near St Albans, was blocked by a fallen tree. With the possible black-out of most of south-east England on his mind, Mr Malins had to get out and shift it.

His 20-mile journey to Southwark was fraught with obstacles brought down in the gale and it was 5.30 before he reached the control room. Meanwhile, the situation had become a great deal worse.

More tripping-out of the overhead wires had lost the grid a succession of power stations along the Thames estuary: Littlebrook, Isle of Grain, Tilbury, West Thurrock and, worst of all, the 1,000-megawatt dual-fired coal and oil station at Kingsnorth. The cross-Channel power link to France was also out.

To compound the problems, both the 275kv and the 400kv transmission lines, which surround London like ring main and bring the capital much of its power, were also tripping out, cutting off the power.

The trouble with electricity

is that it cannot be stored. Operating the national grid is a hair-raising tightrope act, matching generation to demand. Mr Malins and his team had no alternative but to pull the plugs on most of London, taking out 4,000 megawatts of demand, one-sixth of the whole power requirement of England and Wales, to balance the loss of power stations.

It was a critical time of day, the enormous breakfast-time demand for power was almost upon them.

"Power stations that are cut off have to shut down and they need electricity to start up again, which they would normally take from the grid. We ordered a 'black station start' at all the Thames stations."

By 8.30am Mr Malins and his team had most of the lost stations fired up again.

But as the day wore on Mr Malins, aged 48, and a veteran electrical engineer, became increasingly concerned about power supplies in Flamstead.

No electricity meant no hot dinner for the national grid's chief juggler.

Kew Gardens' darkest hour Curator's lifelong work destroyed in one night

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Ian Beyer, deputy curator of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, surveyed the storm damage yesterday and declared it the blackest day in the garden's history.

Hundreds of trees, many of them more than 100 ft high and of great age, were brought down and several buildings

were damaged. Kew has been closed until further notice and staff say that when it does reopen its look and landscape will never be quite the same again.

Mr Beyer, likening the storm to a Pacific hurricane, said: "This is the worst day in the entire history of Kew. It is impossible to put any kind of financial estimate on the dam-

age; literally hundreds of trees, many of them 200 years old, have been devastated."

Colleagues said that Mr Beyer, who has worked at the garden for his entire career, was looking at his life's work largely destroyed in a single night.

Most at risk is Kew's priceless palm collection, housed in the temporary palm house

while the main palm house is being renovated. A large plane tree crashed on the roof of the temporary house, smashing glass and letting in cold air to attack the delicate trees.

King William's Temple and Hanover House, two historic buildings within the garden, suffered structural damage when trees collapsed on their roofs.

Not far away, at Syon Park, hundreds of rare butterflies, birds and insects escaped forever when a large tree plunged through the glass roof of the London Butterfly House, destroying the British butterfly section and causing an estimated £30,000 of structural damage. Most of the more exotic butterflies will not survive.

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Court lifts care order on 'sexual abuse' boy

The development of a boy aged two wrongly diagnosed as a Cleveland sexual abuse victim by Dr Marietta Higgs, a consultant paediatrician, had been seriously harmed, magistrates in Middlesbrough were told yesterday.

Magistrates lifted a care order on the boy after Mr Jim Watson, the solicitor representing parents, told the juvenile court: "A scandalous miscarriage of justice has taken place."

Mr Watson said the boy was taken into care by the social services department and was later examined by the leading child abuse specialists, Dr Hans Steiner, senior lecturer in child health at Newcastle University, and Mr David Jones, a consultant psychiatrist.

"They not only found no sign of anal or psychological abuse by loving and sensitive parents, they also considered that the boy's development had been harmed by taking him from them," Mr Watson said.

He told the magistrates that the two specialists took nearly 12 hours to reach their conclusions but Dr Higgs could make her diagnosis "in 30 seconds".

The boy, admitted to Middlesbrough General Hos-

pital on May 23 with an asthma attack, was taken after 10pm to be examined by Dr Higgs.

Mr Watson said: "The parents have been shell shocked. They have been unjustifiably accused of the worst of all parental crimes. It has been a terrible ordeal for them and the boy."

Social workers allowed the child home after seven weeks after they read the reports of Dr Steiner and Mr Jones.

A Children's Society social worker, who has been appointed the boy's guardian, told the magistrates that she still had some concern for his welfare. The guardian's solicitor, Mr Graham Brown, said steps would be taken next week to make the boy a ward of court.

The boy's mother, aged 34, and his father, aged 39, a steelworker, who also have a daughter aged eight, left the court stunned that the threat of losing their son was still hanging over them.

A relative said: "He is not the same boy at all. When he was returned home he was very withdrawn and scared that he might have to go back to hospital again. His asthma condition was worse when he came back."

Lacroix in new mode goes ready to wear

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

M Christian Lacroix, the designer who revolutionized the fashion business with his exuberant and innovative style, made history in Paris again yesterday.

M Lacroix made his name when he rejuvenated the staid couture house of Paton, going on to open his own fashion house last July backed by Sinapiere Agache, the owner of Dior.

In a series of intimate shows in his salon in the Faubourg St Honoré yesterday, Lacroix launched a totally new concept in ready-to-wear fashion: a deluxe line. Although this is not as pricey as couture, the average price of £2,500 keeps it at the top end of the business.

Lacroix Luxe consists of 15 styles, all special occasion outfits, made with the same skill and workmanship as couture clothes, and lavished with the sort of ornamentation seen only in a made-to-measure dress.

The lushness of Lacroix's style, his puffed sleeves and short skirts stiffened with petticoats, is further embellished by the luxury of his fabrics. Roses in bud and full bloom smother cotton pique and silks.



A Christian Lacroix strapless full-skirted dress in black ottoman with ruffles and pearls (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Handyman tells of shock at seeing his picture on TV

A former handyman accused of five murders told a court yesterday of his shock at discovering that he was a wanted man with his picture on every television screen.

George Stephenson, of Elgar Road, Coventry, denies his part in the rape of a woman aged 46 and the robbery and subsequent murder of five members of the wealthy Cleaver family of Burgate House, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, last September.

From the witness box he told Winchester Crown Court that, two days after he had driven two other accused men, Mr George Daly and his brother John, away from the scene, he had switched on breakfast television.

"It was like a mirror: I was looking at myself. Up until that moment I hadn't any idea what had happened. I was expecting the police to contact me because I thought I would get pulled for a burglary."

Mr Stephenson told Mr Brian Escott QC, for the defence, that he had not realized anyone had died in the robbery until he had seen the news broadcast that morning.

He recalled how he raced upstairs to pull Mr George Daly out of bed.

Earlier he had told the court he had driven the Daly brothers away from the scene of the crimes to Bournemouth where

Mr George Daly and he had drunk a bottle of wine on the cliff.

"I was asking him why he had done it, why he had created the situation that he had put me in. He said he wanted the guns really. He said he was just interested in the guns."

Mr Stephenson referred to an incident after they had returned to Coventry when he claimed Mr Daly showed off the stolen guns to his girl friend, Ruth Smith.

Mr Stephenson said Mr Daly had appeared in the room wearing gunbelts, a haversack full of ammunition and carrying the guns.

"I didn't know what to say. He was a Rambo terrorist. He was armed to the teeth. He was smiling. He was very happy."

Mr Daly also denies robbery and murder charges. Mr John Daly, however, admits two charges of robbery and rape but denies murder.

Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for Mr George Daly, asked Mr Stephenson: "Is it fair to say you are an habitual criminal?"

"No", Mr Stephenson replied. "I believe you have 46 different recorded offences of dishonesty in your name," Mr Palmer said. "I would have to agree with you," Mr Stephenson replied.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Lamplugh check in new police search

By Ruth Gledhill

Detectives investigating the disappearance of Mrs Shirley Banks, the bride of four weeks who disappeared during a shopping trip in Bristol last Thursday night, plan to contact police looking for the missing estate agent, Miss Suzie Lamplugh.

Friends of Mrs Banks and her husband Richard have spoken to Mrs Diana Lamplugh, Miss Lamplugh's mother.

Mr Banks, a sales representative from Clifton, Bristol, said: "Mrs Lamplugh has offered to help us in any way she can."

"We can find no reason for Shirley to disappear and there has been no trace of her anywhere."

Det Sergeant Tim Evans, from Redland Police Station in Bristol, said: "At this stage we are not linking this disappearance directly with Suzie Lamplugh. But it is something we will be looking at."

A search of Bristol docks by police from yesterday failed to uncover any trace of Mrs Banks, aged 29, or her car, which disappeared with her.

The search was primarily for Mr Terry Worthington from Manchester, who had been reported missing the previous night after going out drinking in Bristol with a friend. His body was found.

GPs' cash linked to service offered

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Family doctors would be paid more money for a greater range of services, under radical proposals to be outlined in a Government White Paper next month.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, is determined to achieve a closer relationship between the financial rewards for doctors and the facilities and health care they offer.

The White Paper on primary health care will call for health centres to be much more consumer orientated, so that people will visit them for help and advice rather than just when they are sick.

However it does not suggest the controversial idea of high street "health shops".

The proposals would also mean a compulsory retirement age for doctors, a measure that would be welcomed by many members of a profession where some practitioners are beyond the age of 80.

Legislation to change the family practitioner system will be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Mr Moore said yesterday that the changes would have four main objectives: "To achieve our main aim of raising standards of care; to boost health promotion; to offer a wider choice to the consumer; and to improve value for money."

He told the annual conference of family practitioner committees in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, that there was room for changes in doctors' contracts which would encourage higher performance and that it would be remembered in negotiations with the doctors that most of them effectively had a right of contract with the National Health Service and virtual security of tenure.

Mr Moore said that those doctors taking on extra functions would be provided with additional resources.

'Border Fox' link to kidnap

Irish police investigating the kidnapping of Mr John O'Grady, a dentist from Dublin, for a £300,000 ransom were yesterday stepping up their search for a man known as the "Border Fox".

The leader of a faction recently expelled from the outlawed Irish Nationalist Liberation Army and associated with a string of crimes including several killings, the "Border Fox" emerged yesterday as a prime suspect.

It is thought that Mr O'Grady, aged 38, was abducted as a substitute for Dr Austin Darragh, his millionaire father-in-law, who is the head of a Dublin drugs research organization.

"The Border Fox", a man aged 29 from Co Armagh, is considered the most wanted man on either side of the Irish border.

A one-time IRA activist, he is sought by detectives for questioning about the murder of Mary McGlinchey, whose husband Dominic formerly led the INLA.

Meanwhile, 48 hours after his abduction, Irish police have still to find any trace of Mr O'Grady or his captors.

Nijinsky costume on offer

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A costume once worn by the Russian ballet dancer Nijinsky is to come under the hammer at Sotheby's on October 22.

The costume, designed by Leon Bakst for Jean Cocteau's 1912 ballet *The Blue God*, has traces of original blue grease-

paint on its lining (Nijinsky performed with his skin painted that colour), and Sotheby's thinks it may be the last example of Nijinsky's costumes likely to come on the market.

Lady Gibson, the wife of Lord Gibson, the former chairman of the Arts Council, bought it for £900 at Sotheby's important ballet sale in 1967 and later lent it for show at the Royal Opera House.

It is expected next week to fetch between £6,000 and £8,000 when, according to Miss Asya Chorley of Sotheby's, it may well be bought by the National Gallery of Australia.

Judge calls for milk to illustrate a wasted life

A boy aged 14 was given one of the more curious instructions recorded in English legal history yesterday when he appeared before Lincoln Crown Court charged with stealing a generator (Michael Dines writes).

The boy was told to buy a pint of milk and pour it down a sink.

The instruction came after Judge Jones had said that the boy was wasting his life away. "Haven't you ever seen anything wasted, like your mother pouring a bottle of milk down the sink?" the judge asked. "No", replied the defendant.

Judge Jones apparently felt compelled to rectify the situa-

tion and, turning to the boy's mother, he asked how much a bottle of milk cost. About 25 pence, came the reply.

Determined to press home his analogy, the judge said: "I will give you 25 pence out of my own pocket". He promptly instructed the court clerk to give the boy the money to buy a bottle of milk so that he could pour it down a sink, and see for himself what he was doing with his life.

It is not known whether the boy, who left the court accompanied by his mother, rushed off to put the judge's wisdom to the test or revel in the unexpected boon to be had when charged with stealing a generator.

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Or in 1970, when a certain Richard Branson established a business selling popular records by mail order? Virgin is now one of the most successful companies in Britain.

Or in Marks & Spencer plc—which started as a penny bazaar?

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MLA's NEW UK SMALLER COMPANIES TRUST

Law Society chief calls for agreement with finance groups

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new business code between the Law Society and the big banks and building societies under which they could refer their clients to solicitors was called for by the society's chief executive yesterday.

Mr John Hayes, secretary-general of the Law Society, told solicitors at their annual conference in Vienna, that under such a code, solicitors would still be able to give independent advice to clients.

The code would allow the financial institutions to refer clients to solicitors, with the solicitor's prior agreement, knowing what he would charge, Mr Hayes said.

It would lay down standards of service which the solicitor would undertake to provide and expressly reserve the right

of the solicitor to comment to the client on the advisability of the loan, or the financial service sold with it.

"Can you imagine the political impact for the Law Society if we say, we have tried to negotiate this code, but building societies will not agree that solicitors are free to advise the client on whether the loan is in his interests", he said.

That was a good reason to go out and market the independence of solicitors in the specific transaction of the house transfer, Mr Hayes said.

He suggested the code as a replacement for present practice rules against arrangements for referral of work, fee-sharing and on matters such as

employment of solicitors by non-solicitors.

Mr Hayes also said that the Government would find it difficult to legislate for mixed practices providing "one-stop shopping" between the professions if, as was happening, there were different views between them on what rules should control such practices.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, was assuming that if mixed partnerships came about, each profession would continue to monitor its members and lay down rules.

Mr Hayes doubted whether a common code of ethics was possible.

©The holding of the Law Society conference in Vienna was criticized by one of the speakers there yesterday.

Mrs Jane Lister, managing partner of the Plymouth firm Foot & Bowden, said: "I simply want to know what we are doing in Vienna when we practise in England and Wales".

To applause, she said that the venue had meant very few women solicitors being able to attend, because they could not leave their husbands and children.



Mr Owens loosening up away from the pulpit. (Photograph: Ian Cook).

Marathon man of the church

By Ruth Gledhill

For a vicar who as a child had a "tremendous abhorrence" of physical exercise, the Rev Ian Owens has found his feet in style.

In answer to a challenge from a young church member to compete in the London Marathon, he has raised more than £7,000 for a church project and won a trip to the New York Marathon next month.

"I was watching the London Marathon run past the front of the church two years ago and I was challenged to have a go", Mr Owens said.

If he had seen the runners at the 26-mile mark of the six-mile marker, Mr Owens, aged 41, might have thought twice about the challenge.

"Instead, I was out jogging the next day. I could only do five minutes every other day before collapsing with exhaustion."

After joining London Road Runners Club for training advice, he increased his mileage to 50 a week and completed his first marathon in 4 hrs 8 min.

The £4,700 he raised last year for the Christ Church independent living centre for the disabled has won him a free trip and entry to the New York Marathon on November 1, through a competition run by *Running* magazine.

The church has a further £1m to raise for its project.

Labour backs Hurd on child pornography

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday won all-party backing for his new crackdown on child pornography.

Both Labour and Liberal spokesmen supported his plans for a change in the law making it an offence for someone to possess pornographic material exploiting children.

Under the Protection of Children Act 1978, it is already illegal to produce, distribute or show indecent films or photographs of children. Mr Hurd, responding to police concern about rings of paedophiles privately circulating material, has decided to extend the scope of the law.

An amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, to be considered by the House of Lords when it resumes on Tuesday, is likely to be tabled in a couple of weeks, making possession an offence liable to a fine of up to £2,000.

Mr Hurd told Conservatives in Bladon, Oxfordshire: "The police are concerned that some paedophiles have, in response to the Act, formed closed cells in which they circulate their filth."

"These cells are hard to penetrate and it is often difficult to establish that the

material involved was intended for further distribution. Possession is, on the other hand, simple to establish."

Traditionally, the criminal law had concentrated on those who traded in pornography and, on grounds of individual freedom, not ventured into the area of possession provided it caused no harm to others.

Mr Hurd added: "I am not persuaded in the case of material which exploits children this position stands close scrutiny."

"Such material can only be produced through exploiting and violating children and sometimes subjecting them to appalling degradation."

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's home affairs spokesman, gave full backing to Mr Hurd's move, saying: "The production, distribution and possession of child pornography needs to be hit hard and quickly."

Mr Alex Carlile, Liberal home affairs spokesman, said: "I think it's perfectly sensible provided one can find a proper and workable definition of pornography. I would certainly favour and support these measures, provided there is the right focus test."

Jail officer tells of death fear

By Kerry Gill

A prison officer taken hostage during the Barlinnie Prison siege earlier this year said yesterday he believed he was going to be killed as inmates dragged him from a cell and on to the prison roof.

Mr David Flanagan told the High Court in Glasgow that after spending a night barricaded in a cell in the prison B hall with four other officers, he was led by inmates, one grabbing his hair, on to the roof of a prison lavatory block.

Once he was on the roof, Mr Flanagan said, "I honestly thought I was going to be killed. I thought I was going off the roof."

Mr Flanagan, aged 29, was giving evidence at the trial of nine men charged with offences relating to the siege which lasted from Monday, January 5 to Saturday, January 10 this year.

The men on trial are: David Dickson, Hugh Michael Twigg, Alan Dixon McLeish, David Cochrane, William Marshall, Peter Cochrane, Stephen McCartney, Ernest Barrie and John Downs.

They have pleaded not guilty to mobbing and rioting, the attempted murder of 112 prison officers and three firemen, and holding three prison officers against their will. Two other men, who have been bailed to appear but failed to turn up, have had warrants issued for their arrest.

Mr Flanagan said the prisoners, wearing masks, told him to shout down that they were going to kill him. One told Mr Flanagan he was going to chib (cut) him with a home-made knife but was calmed down by another prisoner.

Mr Flanagan said the previous night he and the four other officers were forced to barricade themselves in a cell normally used as a storeroom. After inmates tried to burn them out by lighting a mattress against the door, the officers poured their own urine on to the flames, he said.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Violence claim by protesters

Greenpeace anti-pollution protesters claimed yesterday they were treated violently after swooping on Vulcanus II, the toxic waste-burning ship, in a Dutch port yesterday.

Campaigners climbed on to the Vulcanus, berthed at Rotterdam, after being ferried on inflatable craft from the Greenpeace ship Sirius.

Two handcuffed themselves to the waste-ship's incineration chimney and another climbed a mast. Mr Eugene Stuk, a Greenpeace campaigner, said: "The German crew of the Vulcanus cut the handcuffs which were attaching our people to the chimney and in doing so one of the campaigners suffered a hand injury."

The protest was against efforts to incinerate toxic waste in the North Sea.

Baby better

Kaylee Davison, aged five months, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, who became Britain's youngest living heart transplant patient after an operation on Wednesday, has made a significant improvement after an initial setback, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, said yesterday.

Death charge

Alban Turner, aged 23, of White City Estate, west London, appeared before Marylebone magistrates yesterday, charged with murdering Michael Galvin at the Notting Hill carnival in August. He was remanded in custody until Wednesday.

Cold landing

A Royal Navy rescue helicopter from Culdrose ditched into the sea off the south Cornish coast at Trewas Head, near Porthleven, yesterday during a rescue training exercise. The four-man crew was uninjured.

£10m for city

Developments in Manchester and at the city's international airport are to be helped with loans of £10 million from the European Investment Bank.

Unemployed confront Tory window cleaner

By John Spicer

The delegate to the Conservative Party conference who accused the unemployed of being "scabby-faced youths who sit around watching television rather than looking for work", came face to face with 70 jobless yesterday.

They turned up outside his home in Bournemouth at 7.30 am chanting "give us a job Archdale" but found themselves being interviewed by the local police instead.

Mr Greg Archdale, aged 28, publicity officer for Bournemouth Young Conservatives, told the party conference last week that he had vacancies in his window cleaning business that he could not fill.

He told the conference: "If the unemployed take a trip down the motorway to see me, I'll show them how to work".

His early-morning visitors came from Liverpool, Derbyshire and Scotland in hired coaches.

The delegation, claiming to represent thousands of unemployed, arrived soon after daybreak in Markham Road, Charnham, Bournemouth, where Mr Archdale lives. The police agreed to allow four

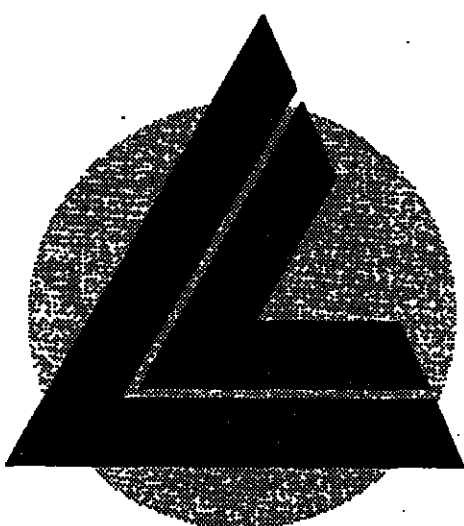
members to knock on Mr Archdale's door but they got no response.

Clearly shaken by the response to his conference invitation, Mr Archdale was eventually driven from his home in a police car. The two sides met in the yard behind the local police station.

During what were described as "heated exchanges", in which Mr Archdale's Blackpool remarks were challenged, the window cleaner suggested they should get details of the Government's enterprise allowance scheme so they could start their own window-cleaning businesses.

Mr Archdale told his visitors that he would try to take on as many of them as possible but the unemployed accused him of lying about window cleaning jobs in Bournemouth.

The interviews and banter in the police yard went on for about half an hour. Afterwards, Mr Archdale maintained that everything he said to the Tories at the conference was true but he admitted that he regretted making the statements.



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Labour back
Hurd on child
pornography

WORLD SUMMARY

Rescuers near trapped child

Midland, Texas (AP) — Rescue was near for Jessica McClure, the 18-month-old girl trapped for two days 22ft down a well, police said last night. An engineer who was able to look into the shaft said she looked all right.

"We expect to bring her out any time now," Sergeant Jeff Haile said. "Making sure we get her out safely is our main concern."

Earlier, rescuers enlarged a hole in the shaft to allow an engineer to look in and get a glimpse of Jessica. "She was able to move and she looked like she's OK," Police Chief Richard Czech said. They also inserted two industrial balloons below Jessica to keep her from slipping farther down the well.

Sergeant Haile said that the child had been crying for her mother and was no longer singing nursery rhymes as she had done on Thursday.

Hammer go-between

Jerusalem — Mr Armand Hammer, the American Jewish oil millionaire who has maintained close links with every Soviet leader except Stalin, is trying to help Moscow pull its Army out of Afghanistan in return for exit visas for thousands of refugees (Ian Murray writes).

He disclosed this here after flying in on board his private plane on Thursday with Miss Ida Nudel, who was for 16 years a refugee and whose release he claims to have won in exchange for a promise to act as an intermediary between Moscow and Kabul.

Defector unhappy

Moscow — The Kremlin suffered a bad propaganda blow yesterday when Wade Roberts, the US Army private who defected in April, said that he wanted to leave for East Germany and hoped eventually to return to the United States (Christopher Walker writes).

He said that he hated life in Ashkhabad, the Central Asian desert town where he and his West German girlfriend, Petra Neumann, had been tricked into marrying, and claimed that his comments had been grossly distorted by the Soviet press.

Kremlin pays UN

New York — A Kremlin decision to repay all Moscow's debts to the United Nations is the strongest signal of a new Soviet belief in a long-term relationship with the UN, it was learned yesterday (Charles Bremner writes).

The move has also cast the United States firmly in the role of the organization's bad debtor.

Diplomats yesterday saw the move to pay \$225 million (£135 million) to the UN in one lump as confirming a change of heart towards the organization because apparent soon after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev took office in 1985.

Cyprus hit-team fear

Nicosia (Reuters) — An arms cache found hidden near a main road in Cyprus may have belonged to a guerrilla hit team, security sources said yesterday. "Police had information that three Arabs in Cyprus were 'guns for hire' and had brought in arms," one source said.

Forestry workers earlier this week found two rocket propelled grenade launchers and some grenades. Reports said an attack might have been planned against the British military presence in Cyprus.

Coin theft arrests

New York — All 35 collectors and drivers from the company which collects the coins from New York's parking meters were arrested yesterday and charged with stealing almost \$1 million in 25-cent coins in the past three months (Charles Bremner writes).

The employees of the Cosmopolitan Courier Corporation are suspected of taking \$3, or about 10 per cent of the revenues of the city's 56,000 parking meters over the past year, according to the Brooklyn prosecutor. Computer records helped reveal the theft.

Flood of hopefuls

Taipei (AP) — Hundreds of elderly Taiwanese men and women jammed the Red Cross office here yesterday for help in locating relatives in China whom they want to visit after nearly 40 years.

The bureau was besieged the day after the Government announced that its 38-year-old ban on travel to the mainland will end on October 31 to permit family visits. Many crowding into the office were among the two million people who fled to Taiwan with the Nationalist Government in 1949 after losing the civil war to the Communists.

Nobel shares sell-off

Stockholm (Reuters) — The charitable foundation that funds the Nobel Prizes plans to sell shares in its property subsidiary to raise extra money so that prizes can be restored to their original value.

Telling chapters on US failure to combat Aids

The tragic toll creeps upwards every day. Already 42,963 Americans have got Aids and 24,698 have died. Among the Hispanic population in the US alone, one new victim is infected every two hours and one person dies every four hours. By 1990, according to official projections, the disease will have claimed 270,000 Americans — more than the entire population of Iceland.

Aids is now considered the most serious issue facing the nation, according to the polls. Inevitably, it will be one of the most vexed and controversial election issues.

But already the disease is taking a heavy political toll. And the *Band Played On*, details the way ignorance, ideology, political expediency and prejudice have contributed to a pandemic in the world's richest and most powerful country while the Government fiddled, the risk groups played on, and America sank into misery and death. "The story of these first five years of Aids in America is a drama of national failure, played out against a backdrop of needless death," says the author, Randy Shilts.

"People died while Reagan Administration officials ignored pleas from government scientists

and did not allocate adequate funding for Aids research . . .

"People died while scientists did not at first devote appropriate attention to the epidemic because they perceived little prestige to be gained in studying a homosexual affliction . . .

"People died while public health authorities and political leaders who guided them refused to take the tough measures necessary to curb

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

the epidemic's spread . . . People died while gay community leaders played politics with the disease, putting political dogma ahead of the preservation of human life."

His book, with its revelation that a homosexual activist, Stewart from Canada, Gaetan Dugas, was the fateful "patient zero" responsible for spreading Aids initially in the US through sexual liaisons that averaged 250 a year, could not have appeared at a more telling moment.

The Administration's policy on Aids is in chaos. The chairman of President Reagan's Aids Commission, Dr Eugene Mayberry, and the

vice-chairman have both resigned, complaining that factional squabbling was preventing the 13 members carrying out their task of advising Mr Reagan on the medical, legal, ethical, social and economic implications of the disease.

It first met a month ago, when its executive director was dismissed after only three weeks in the job. Its aim of producing a report by December 7 seems mired in disarray and disagreement, and it has been left to an admiral, the new chairman, to try to make up with discipline the lack of expertise in the commission.

As usual in America, the whole thing has ended up in court, where civil rights and public health groups have filed suit, charging that the commission lacks representatives of the high-risk groups and includes members with "extreme viewpoints".

At the same time, the conflict between conservatives and pragmatists within the Administration over Aids has sharpened. Mr William Bennett, the Education Secretary, has had 500,000 copies of a handbook printed for distribution to school principals, which is heavily moralistic and insists that abstinence is the only message.

"Promoting the use of condoms can suggest to teenagers that adults expect them to engage in sexual intercourse," he says.

Dr Everett Koop, the Surgeon-General, sharply disagrees. He has urged all doctors to teach proper condom use, and to speak out openly with sexually active patients. He said frankness was necessary, because "the alternative is almost certain death". And although he admits that, as a conservative, he finds it "unpleasant" to recommend condoms to young people, he writes in the *American Medical Association's* journal that the disease is unpleasant and condoms are preferable to treating Aids.

But despite a loose-living image, America is often prudish and squeamish about sex. This has inhibited efforts to disseminate public information about Aids; the main television networks are still balking at allowing condom advertisements. There was outrage this week in the Senate when Mr Jesse Helms, a fiery Republican conservative, held up an explicit comic book on safe sex produced by the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and denounced the use of federal funds for such a group.

"I just want the American

taxpayer's dollar to be spent in a moral way," he said, and his colleagues agreed by 94 votes to two that educational materials should emphasize abstinence. But as the Aids Action Council commented despairingly, education for high-risk groups must be "explicit, detailed and unflinching".

Official hypocrisy over Aids was one of the targets of a vast six-day demonstration in Washington, which ended on Tuesday, by gay rights groups who demanded an end to discrimination and more urgent action to fight the disease.

The marchers, numbering around 200,000, seemed like an anachronistic echo of the 1960s with their banners, calls for civil rights and sit-ins on the steps of the Supreme Court. The mass wedding of 2,000 same-sex couples, complete with consummation and caravans, was perhaps hardly the way to win over middle America.

But one moving spectacle did: the unveiling of a vast quilt, covering several acres, stitched together from thousands of patches commemorating sons, friends and lovers who had died of Aids. Many mourned openly on television — but new patches are being sewn by the hundreds every day now.

Khamenei taunts US after missile strike on ship

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

Headless of the probability of American retaliation, President Khamenei of Iran yesterday taunted the Americans for not being able to protect their ships in the Gulf scarcely eight hours after an Iranian missile exploded aboard a US-flagged vessel off Kuwait, wounding 18 of the crew, seven of them seriously.

The attack had been both predicted and feared in the Gulf since the US Navy began escorting American-flagged ships in the late spring. It came at dawn when the missile, later identified by the Americans as a Chinese-made Silkworm fired by the Iranians.

Dubai — A simple but potentially fatal error in identifying a warship in the Gulf yesterday led an Iranian frigate to fire towards a helicopter-borne television camera crew who thought they were filming an American vessel (Robert Fisk writes). The Canadian pilot and crew from the US National Broadcasting Company fled from the ship, zigzagging at low level when they saw a machinegun firing at them.

from the occupied Fao peninsula, 60 miles away, detonated against the starboard accommodation quarters of the 81,283-tonne production carrier, *Sea Isle City*, as it prepared to berth and load off Shuaiba.

The American captain and his radio operator were among the wounded, but US warships — which are forbidden to enter Kuwaiti territorial waters — were not there to protect the vessel. Two Britons, including the chief engineer, were also injured.

Indeed, the nearest American naval craft were last night believed to be as far as 200 miles away — three of them moored inside Bahrain harbour — although reports after dusk said that US warships were moving into the water of



The US-reflagged tanker *Sea Isle City*, nearest, on a recent trip to Kuwait being escorted by a US Navy frigate.

the upper Gulf. The Navy had escorted the *Sea Isle City* and three other tankers in convoy up to Kuwait earlier in the week but then, as usual, returned to Bahrain while the ships loaded their cargoes.

The Americans have often warned that they would free to retaliate if Iran attacked US-flag ships and the Arab Gulf states — which were this week lectured by the American Energy Secretary on Washington's determination to maintain freedom of navigation in the region — were last night waiting for the American response. With about 25,000 men on board 30 ships inside the Gulf and in the Arabian Sea, the US can scarcely fail to take some form of retaliatory action, if only to avoid public humiliation after yesterday's attack.

A strike against the Silkworm missile batteries on the Iranian side of the Strait of Hormuz — or on one of the smaller Iranian islands in the Gulf — is likely to be high on the US Navy's list of priorities. However, the political implications of such attacks, not to mention their effect on the lives of eight American hostages in Lebanon, may well act as a restraining influence.

For their part the Iranians made little or no attempt to hide their satisfaction at the missile strike against the *Sea Isle City*, although President Khamenei was careful not to accept responsibility.

For any retaliatory strikes, the Americans can call upon both a carrier and a battleship naval group in the Gulf of Oman. The US helicopter carrier *Guadalupe* was last night believed to be off Dammam in Saudi Arabia while three other American warships — the *La Salle*, the *Raleigh* and the *St Louis* were in Bahrain harbour.

The *Sea Isle City* is one of 10 Kuwaiti vessels re-registered with the Americans earlier this year. Last night its condition was unknown although a fire broke out after the missile exploded on it. The French Navy said yesterday that its forces in the Gulf area discovered two new mines, bringing to six the total found since France began its operations last month (AP reports).

The announcement by the Navy general staff said the mines were found yesterday morning by the mine-hunter *Garigliano* just off Khor Fakkan on the Gulf of Oman side of the United Arab Emirates.

The Burkina Faso coup

Sankara mourned as new regime declares a holiday

By Nicholas Beeston

Hundreds of Ouagadougou residents filed into the for he knew what Captain Dagnogo cemetery yesterday morning to pay last respects to their fallen leader, Captain Thomas Sankara, as the new regime in Burkina Faso declared a public holiday and announced it would steer the country back towards "revolutionary" principles.

Reports from the landlocked West African state said that up to 100 people were killed on Thursday in clashes in Ouagadougou, when troops loyal to Captain Sankara defied the presidential palace against new forces under the command of the former Justice Minister, Captain Blaise Compaore, aged 36.

At least 13 members of the military and civilian government were killed, eight of them buried beside their former leader, although the new authorities have not yet confirmed his death.

In spite of a night-time curfew, eyewitnesses said the city of 400,000 was quiet yesterday as the new military Government, installed in a hotel seized off by troops, announced on Ouagadougou Radio that it was releasing all political prisoners and condemning the former leader for deviating from revolutionary doctrine.

● PARIS: President Mitterrand said in Paris yesterday that he was saddened by the "terrible news" of Captain Sankara's death, describing him as a "young, intelligent man full of sincerity and drive" (Susan MacDonald writes).

His relationship with President Mitterrand was that of a young rebel trying to teach a wise older statesman a few new tricks — a game that was taken

in good part by M Mitterrand residents filed into the for he knew what Captain Dagnogo cemetery yesterday morning to pay last respects to their fallen leader, Captain Thomas Sankara, as the new regime in Burkina Faso declared a public holiday and announced it would steer the country back towards "revolutionary" principles.

The Princess Royal met President Sankara in 1984 on a visit to West Africa for the Save the Children Fund. In a recent interview Captain Sankara stated sadly that he was like a cyclist going up a steep hill with revolvers on either side. "There is nothing else to do but to keep pedalling," he said, adding that he was one of the most misunderstood men in Africa.

Ortega vows to jail Contra negotiators

From David Gollob, Managua

President Ortega of Nicaragua yesterday vowed to imprison any Contra leaders who under the country's new peace negotiations with the Government, regardless of whether they were accompanied by US congressmen.

"If they lay down their arms and seek amnesty, they can return," Señor Ortega said. "Otherwise they will be thrown in jail, because they have crimes to answer for."

The Nicaraguan leader bristled with anger when asked for his reaction to a proposal by the rebel leadership to travel to Managua in the company of US congressmen and representatives of four Central American countries.

Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, one of six co-directors

San José — Costa Rica has become the first Central American country to agree to facilitate international inspection of its territory under the provisions of the Guatemala peace accord (A Correspondent writes).

An inspection team from the UN and the Organization of American States will be given all necessary facilities to determine if Costa Rica has complied with the accord.

of the Contra movement, had made the proposal at a news conference in Washington on Thursday.

It came as Sandinista troops were fighting a battle with Contra forces for control of the strategic Rama highway, the only road link between Managua and Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

Contra forces had struck four towns along the route in a series of lightning attacks in the early morning hours. The offensive was the boldest in several months, and came only three weeks before a deadline for implementing a Central American peace agreement signed in Guatemala in August.

According to accounts by both sides, fighting was heaviest at the town of Santo Tomás, 110 miles south-east of Managua.

In a clandestine radio broadcast monitored in Managua the Contras claimed to have driven Sandinista forces from the towns. A Defence Ministry communiqué issued in Managua on Thursday night denied that the town had been taken and that the Rama highway had been cut.

However, it acknowledged

that two key bridges had been damaged in an attack by 450 Contras. The government-controlled Radio Sandino reported that the highway was closed all day and that long queues of vehicles had formed.

The Defence Ministry reported only slight casualties, but gave no figures for military losses. However, an urgent appeal for medical assistance had been broadcast on Radio Sandino earlier in the day.

Santo Tomás is the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Army's 52nd battalion, and it is likely that large numbers of rebel soldiers were involved in the assault.

The Defence Ministry confirmed that a Soviet-supplied Mi 17 troop-transport helicopter had been shot down in the area the day before, the second such loss in less than a week.

Under the terms of the Central American agreement, which has earned its chief architect, President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, the Nobel Peace Prize, Nicaragua must take "all necessary steps" to arrange a ceasefire by the first week of November. Negotiations with the Contras are not specifically called for and President Ortega has said that he will only negotiate with the Reagan Administration.

Recently, however, Señor Ortega has been coming under increasing pressure to reconsider this condition, most significantly from President Arias himself. In radio interviews broadcast here this week, the Costa Rican leader pressed the government to initiate talks with the Contras, and proposed Nicaraguan Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando as mediator.

Ballot likely to decide Nakasone's successor

By Michael Dynes

After the failure of a week of tortuous backroom negotiations in Japan to decide who will succeed the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the question now seems likely to be put to the ballot on Tuesday.

Barring an 11th-hour compromise between the three presidential aspirants — Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former Finance Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, former Foreign Minister, and Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the current Finance Minister — the decision will be made by the party's 445 members in both houses of the Diet.

Because of the Liberals'

overwhelming parliamentary majority, the new party president will automatically become Prime Minister when Mr Nakasone steps down on October 30, after his unprecedented five-year term of office.

Japanese presidential elections are traditionally decided less by policy differences than by the relative strengths and shifting alliances of the five major factions within the party, all locked in perpetual struggle for ascendancy.

Mr Takeshita, who presides over the biggest faction, is widely tipped as the most likely successor to Mr Nakasone, despite repeatedly coming bottom of the popularity opinion polls.

Leaders put their heads together



Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, leaning on Mr Brian Mulroney, left, and Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, in Kelowna, Canada, a lakeside resort where they prepared a communiqué on the Vancouver Commonwealth summit.

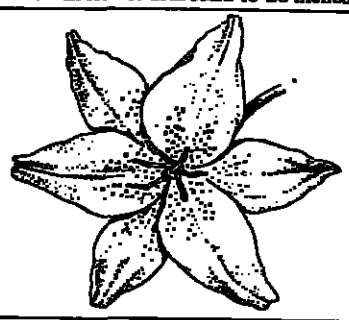
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Jayewardene lays down terms for peace in Sri Lanka as fighting continues

Unconditional surrender call to Tigers

Ceasefire plea as toll rises

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka yesterday laid down his terms for ending the conflict between the Indian peace-keeping force and the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northern town of Jaffna.

"There should be an unconditional surrender," he said. In the course of a 75-minute exclusive interview with *The Times* at his office in Colombo, the President promised: "I'm not going to execute them."

But he added: "I want an unconditional surrender because I cannot deal with them. It's not fair on my people, both Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim, on the country and on the other separatist groups. (Velupillai) Prabhakaran (the Tigers' leader) and his team must be locked up."

While expressing sympathy for the sufferings of the population of the town, he said that the destruction of Jaffna need not happen if the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would give up fighting. And if they do not? "Well, we shall fight to a finish."

At the same time President Jayewardene is desperately anxious about the terrorist campaign building up in the south by the Marxist extremist group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or People's Freedom Front.

He declared: "I felt I was quite strong enough to sign the accord (with the Indian Government) to settle the ethnic dispute in the north and east, and felt that I have the loyalty of my Cabinet and

party. What has weakened me is not the democratic opposition to the accord, but the JVP campaign.

"My ministers, my candidates, my MPs, the whole party is rocked by that, and not by the accord. They are in fear of their lives."

The President, aged 81, who was himself wearing a new hearing aid as a result of the noise from the parliamentary bomb in August which killed one minister and injured sev-

The International Committee of the Red Cross asked Sri Lanka yesterday for permission to launch a Lebanon-style emergency relief operation for thousands of Tamil civilians in Jaffna (Nicholas Beeston writes).

eral others, listed the attacks on ministers, MPs and policemen since then. "A few more deaths and my party will break up," he said.

"I can't deal with this in a democratic way," he said, and complained of the number of JVP members who are arrested and then released by the courts.

Meanwhile, he is happy to leave the conduct of the war against the Tamil separatists to the Indian Army. "I trust the Indian Government," he said. "They are in charge of the operation and my generals are helping. So far they are also satisfied." He is also happy to trust the good faith and benevolent intentions of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

The Indo-Sri Lankan accord is different from all the other attempts to end the ethnic dispute, the President pointed out, which tried to reach agreement with the separatists, who never really agreed to anything. "This one is between India and myself," he said. "It's final."

As for the derogation of Sri Lanka's sovereignty implied by the letter on various foreign policy matters attached to the accord, the President dismissed the notion on two grounds: one, that although criticized by the opposition leader, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, she had proposed far more drastic suggestions on each topic; second, the President said, the proposal would not affect relations until it is enshrined in a full and reciprocal treaty between the two countries, which has yet to be negotiated.

Finally, the President firmly believed that when he asked the Indian Prime Minister to withdraw his troops, then he would do so.

The President acknowledged that he must bear some of the blame for the state of relations between the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka and the majority Sinhalese. But he defended himself by saying that until he became Prime Minister or President, he had only a subordinate role to play.

In any case, he feels that he has now made amends by including in the Indian accord a formula giving equal status to Sinhala, Tamil and English as administrative languages.



President Jayewardene: desperately anxious about the terrorist campaign in the south.

He put it in because he wanted it settled in his time. "Let us finish it now."

Is the President not afraid that the work he is doing now, and in particular the creation of a more open economic society, will be undone following a general election?

"No, I'll have to form the next government." He looks forward to parliamentary elections, probably in December, 1988. They will be held under proportional representation and he sees a coalition government as the most likely result, with his own United National

Party as the largest single party. Even if his party is defeated, he points out that he will still be President, and it will be up to him to appoint the Cabinet. His policies of an open economy and increased privatization will be maintained.

Indian troops yesterday claimed their biggest success in the campaign to seize control of Jaffna, Sri Lanka's northern city, from rebel Tamil separatists. They captured a rebel stronghold at Urumpirai on the road from Palali, which had been resisting the Indian advance for the past three days.

An Indian official said last night that 111 guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed in the assault. Fourteen Indian soldiers were wounded.

While the fighting was continuing and the Indians were advancing along all routes to the town, hurried moves were made to try to establish a ceasefire.

Efforts were also being made to relieve some of the suffering of the town's civilian population by sending in a Red Cross team and, possibly, a supply convoy.

The ceasefire moves came about through the chairman of the Jaffna Red Cross, Mr R. Balasubramaniam, who has been in contact with Lieutenant-General Dipinder Singh, the Indian Army regional commander, and Mr "Maha-tiya" Mahendraraja, the second-in-command of the Tigers.

The Tiger leader gave Mr Balasubramaniam a note addressed to "whomever it may concern" saying that they were anxious for a ceasefire and would be willing to nego-

tiate. General Singh replied that the only terms under which a ceasefire could obtain would be if the Tigers undertook to give up all their arms completely and unconditionally, and to support fully the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

Mr Balasubramaniam has now been asked to see if he can get a specific undertaking from the Tigers' leadership on the laying down of arms and the accord.

Apart from the Urumpirai victory, the military situation around the town has improved for the Indians on the other lines of attack, too. The troops on the Kankesanthurai to Jaffna road have advanced still further, to Iruvili, and have also moved westwards to Udavili, Manipal and Sathanakali.

The troops on the Navatkuli axis have reached the municipal border and taken the road and rail junction at Chennanikulam. Sixteen Tigers were killed in this advance.

The Indians yesterday admitted only one further casualty, a paramilitary policeman who died in a landmine explosion in the Vadammarachchi area.

In the east of Sri Lanka, Tiger gangs continued their diversionary tactics by stopping a bus close to the coastal town of Pulumoddi in the Trincomalee district. They segregated the passengers and killed 11 Sinhalese, including two off-duty policemen.

Michelangelo's black glue stirs sticky controversy

In the second of two articles on the rows raging over the protection of Italy's Renaissance heritage, Roger Boyes reports from Rome on the passions unleashed by the restoration of the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Michelangelo and his black glue are at the heart of a dispute that pits the modern world (Fornax, acid rain) against national heritage.

It is a quintessentially Italian struggle because it raises the art historian — in Britain rather a diffident breed, even when they say for the Soviet Union — to the status of hero.

Italy is a cultural battleground; hardly a day goes by without news of some fresh skirmish. Should a highway be constructed through the Neapolitan old Pompeii to ease the traffic of modern Pompeii?

Should the complex Roman baths in Florence be completely excavated at the expense of a Renaissance square? How, having agreed that Venice should be saved, are we to spend the money? How to rescue the Colosseum from decay by a thousand diesel engines?

In those epic contests, often worthy of modern frescoes, the art historian or archaeologist is ranged against the construction company or the local politician. The politicians, as is their wont, change sides and choose their cause according to personal convenience.

The Sistine Chapel ceiling, Michelangelo's masterpiece as a painter, is halfway through an eight-year period of restoration and cleaning. It is by far the most ambitious and controversial restoration project this century.

Every visitor to the chapel is now able to compare the unrestored, darkened and rather mysterious Michelangelo frescoes with a bright, multicoloured and surprisingly modern version of his work.

The result is that art historians are fighting each other like alley cats. The credibility of Italian art historians — rather dashing figures — is at stake. Can we trust them, Italians are asking — or are they just trying to keep themselves in work?

The lobby against the Sistine Chapel renovation is an American-Italian coalition — and the most lurid criticism comes from the United States.

Professor James Beck of Columbia University in New

York describes it as an artistic Chernobyl. Another expert compares the cleaning of the chapel with the space-shuttle disaster.

Rome academicians and a leading Florentine historian of restoration, Dr Alessandro Coen, agree, though in "less apocalyptic terms".

Frescoes were created by daubing water soluble pigments on to damp plaster. As the plaster dries, the colour is absorbed. Then when it is dry, the artist can touch up.

The anti-cleaning lobby say that Michelangelo deliberately

At war over Italy's past Part 2: Rome

darkened the ceiling with a black glue-like substance to give depth to his characters. Now, everything is being scrubbed off, and the result is a collection of unnaturally bright prophets and angels, dressed in chirpy Benetton colours.

The cleaners are led by the Vatican's main restorer, Signor Gianluigi Colalucci, who says that there is no evidence that Michelangelo intended to darken his characters.

Three thousand art specialists have now examined the frescoes and most agree with the Vatican. From the purely pragmatic view, the cleaning means that lost details have been rediscovered and that shrouded images, such as Noah's Ark, are clearly visible for the first time in years.

But Italians, watching the art historians race to discover new historical sources to support their argument, are for the most part bemused.

The acid test, so to speak, is now approaching. The cleaners are moving closer to the most famous image in Western art — "The Creation of Adam". If they make a mess of that, the status of art historian in Italy will plunge and an important battle will have been lost.

Concluded

Second desert crash of US top-secret fighter

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

A highly secret US Air Force Stealth fighter crashed in the Nevada Desert on Wednesday and its pilot was killed, a Pentagon source confirmed yesterday.

This is the second time that such a fighter, which is so secret that officials do not even admit that it exists, has crashed. In July 1986, a plane believed to be the Stealth crashed near Bakersfield, California.

Usually with crashes the Air Force releases the type of aircraft and the number of

crew involved. In this case, Major Victor Andrijauskas, of Nellis Air Force Base outside Las Vegas, one of three sites where the fighters are believed to be based, gave no details.

He said only that the remote area was being searched for the aircraft and its crew. The search area has been cordoned off.

The F19, or Stealth, has been described as an experimental aircraft using the latest electronic technology, material and aerodynamic design to foil enemy detection.

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Fiji's break with Crown

Regrets linger on as Rabuka prepares for an era of change

From Gavin Bell, Suva

It was as if a close relative had passed away. For many Fijians, the severing of ties with the British Crown that have spanned 113 years of war and peace was a source of profound sadness yesterday.

While the resignation of Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau as Governor-General was a matter of political import, the loss of the special relationship with generations of the Royal Family struck a more emotional chord.

It happened, literally, overnight, as the Queen's statement was issued in Vancouver during the hours of darkness in Fiji.

Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, head of the interim military Government, learnt of the announcement from *The Times* via a Minister of State. In a response understood to have been drafted for him by Information Ministry officials, he expressed gratitude to Ratu Ganilau for "graciously relinquishing" his post, and reaffirmed that he would nominate the former Governor-General to be President of the Republic.

His first priority was the return of democracy under a new Constitution, presently being drafted. Once it had been promulgated, the Great Council of Chiefs would be convened to appoint the President.

Ratu Ganilau was relaxing in his home village of Somosomo on the island of Taveuni yesterday and declining all comment.

Colonel Rabuka also expressed his "heartfelt appreciation" to the Queen for accepting Ratu Ganilau's resignation, and for her advice that the people of Fiji must now determine their own future.

"I fervently hope that the heads of the Commonwealth governments in Vancouver will pay heed to Her Majesty's

generous guidance and permit Fiji to remain in the Commonwealth, and not pre-judge Fiji and take the punitive action of expulsion."

He said that he would do all he could to ensure peace and harmony among all races in Fiji, but also to "reflect the changes sincerely desired by the indigenous people of Fiji for their peace of mind and continued security as a cultural entity".

The changes to which Colonel Rabuka referred are being enshrined in the revised Constitution, which is due to be completed within a month. He has said that they would

Strasbourg — The European Parliament has adopted a resolution condemning the coup in Fiji (AFP reports). The resolution, passed late on Thursday, called on the European Commission to suspend purchases of Fijian sugar.

"ensure that the interests of (non-Indian) Fijians in their own country are guaranteed in perpetuity... not only their political control, but also their economic interests."

Colonel Rabuka's vision of a new era of hope and prosperity was not shared by Dr Timoci Bavandira, the former Prime Minister, whose short-lived government was overthrown by the Colonel last May. "It will be a time of oppression under a military-backed regime, a time of isolation from our traditional friends in the world, and a time of severe economic deprivation," he said.

He omitted to mention the violence. A small bomb exploded outside a department store shortly after it closed in Suva, the capital, last night. The blast caused minor damage, but no casualties were reported.

The reaction in the diplomatic community was mixed. Australia announced that

it was recalling its High Commissioner, Mr John Piper, for consultations, and was considering its relations with the new authorities in Fiji. Mr Piper's British and New Zealand counterparts remain at their posts, pending the outcome of the Vancouver meeting.

Mixed emotions were also evident in the streets of Suva. The prevailing sentiments appeared to be regret, relief that the deadlock had been broken, and uncertainty about the future. Few citizens of Colonel Rabuka's republic were inclined to express their opinions freely to this correspondent.

Brigadier Epele Nailatikau, the former commander of the armed forces who was ousted by Colonel Rabuka's initial coup, was more forthcoming. "I am deeply saddened by these developments. All along, our loyalty has been to the Queen. As a soldier that comes in very high." On Ratu Ganilau's resignation, he added: "I would not have wanted him to resign under these circumstances, and I know a lot of people feel the same way."

The response of the ethnic Indian community was more evident. Applications for immigration to Australia have soared from less than 80 a month before the first coup to an average of 400 a day. Similar queues outside the New Zealand High Commission have increased tenfold. There has been no change in the relatively modest number of applications to the UK.

Meanwhile, Sir Timoci Tuivaga, the Chief Justice, and Mr Howard Morrison, the Chief Magistrate, were preparing to leave their residences, after having been dismissed for refusing to swear oaths of allegiance to the new regime.

Whatever else happens now in Fiji, it is, indeed, the end of an era.

Blessing for air crash victims in Italy



Father Giovanni Tremolada, at the site of the plane crash near Italy's Lake Como, blessing the 37 passengers and crew who are feared dead. The plane was on its way from Milan to Cologne when it went into a hillside on Thursday night.

Airline staff call off strike

From Roger Boyes Rome

Italian airline workers, dazed by the worst domestic air crash for more than seven years, yesterday called off a strike to press for higher pay.

But Italian airports, especially Milan, remained a blend of confusion and mourning for the 37 people who were believed killed when the two-engined ATR 42 smashed into a hillside near Lake Como on Thursday night.

Most of the passengers on the flight bound for Cologne were West Germans who wanted to get home quickly before the Italian airline strike began in earnest.

The ground staff unions had decided to stage a series of strikes over the coming weeks to put pressure on Signor Giovanni Goria's Government in the current wage dispute.

Three commissions have been set up to investigate the causes of Thursday's crash. The plane, belonging to the short-haul ATI airline, was 15 minutes out of Milan airport when it registered a fire in one of its small turbines. Soon afterwards, at about 7.30 pm, it plunged down. Investigators said yesterday they were considering "all possibilities" for the cause of the crash.

Experts do not give the passengers — who include two babies — much chance of survival, but the search is continuing. Bad weather and steep terrain yesterday hindered the recovery of bodies from the wreckage, which was spread over a wide area.

One question the inquiry will have to answer is how far the industrial action contributed towards the accident. Milan and Rome airports were chaotic as the first part of the strike came into force and passengers struggled to get on the last flight out.

Ban on US mission to Tibet

By Our Foreign Staff

Two Americans who witnessed anti-Chinese demonstrations in Tibet this month accused China yesterday of "institutionalized genocide" of Tibetans.

The accusation came as China's paramount leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, yesterday blamed Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and "a few US congressmen" for causing the unrest.

The Americans' claim followed an announcement by Peking that it would not permit a human rights delegation from the US Congress to

visit Tibet. The Foreign Ministry in Peking said in a statement: "Matters concerning Tibet are the internal affairs of China in which the US Congress has no right to meddle."

The two Americans, Dr William Kerr and Mr John Ackery, an attorney, told a news conference that they were ordered out of Tibet last Saturday by Chinese police.

"You cannot imagine what is going on up there," Mr Kerr said. "The Tibetans are living under Chinese military

occupation. We saw Tibetan Buddhist monks being killed in cold blood by Chinese police... shot in the back."

Mr Kerr said he treated at least 16 Tibetans wounded in Chinese gunfire in the independence demonstration by 5,000 Tibetans on October 1. Many were afraid to go to hospitals for fear of arrest.

China has said that the demonstrations were sparked by statements made by the Dalai Lama while on a tour in September of the United States.

Strikers take to Manila streets

Manila (AP) — Hundreds of workers marched on the streets and thousands more stayed at home as unions in the Philippines stepped up a week-old strike to demand immediate wage increases.

Government offices, banks, stores and restaurants remained open, however, and there were no signs of a threatened transport stoppage.

There were no reports of violence as troops and police went on alert in the capital and other urban centres.

Cabinet call

Pusan (AP) — The South Korean opposition leader, Mr Kim Young Sam, called for talks with the Government to discuss forming a neutral Cabinet to ensure fair presidential elections were held this year.

Peking talks

Peking (AP) — Mr Igor Rogachev, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, said discussions with China on normalizing relations had made progress, but there were still differences on regional issues.

Judges sacked

Abidjan (AFP) — The Chief Justice of Liberia, Counsellor Chea Cheapoo, has dismissed 75 justices of the peace and one magistrate in the northern county of Lofa for being what he termed "illiterate".

Fire deaths

Jakarta (Reuters) — Twenty-one people were killed when fire engulfed a T-shirt factory in a densely populated area of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital.

Stingers split Afghan rebels

From Edward Gorman, Peshawar

As Washington begins an investigation into whether Afghan rebel fighters sold Stinger missiles to Iran, observers of the CIA-inspired policy of distributing arms and cash to the guerrilla forces say that the strategy is backfiring.

Instead of uniting the differing factions fighting the Soviet Army, sophisticated weaponry like the Stinger has created friction as rival Mujahideen battle for the prestige of having US arms.

The Stingers, first supplied to the guerrillas this time last year, have exerted a dramatic effect on the war, virtually grounding the Soviet and Afghan air forces which long enjoyed supremacy.

But the "Stinger effect" is beginning to exert pressures within the seven leading resis-

tance parties directly inimical to US attempts to bring them together. As one Western diplomat in Islamabad put it: "We're starting to see a two-tier structure develop in the resistance between those who have the weapons and those who do not."

The Americans will not discuss the programme, but they are believed to be training selected Afghans at secret camps near Islamabad, and 600 new weapon systems are believed to have been delivered this year.

During a recent two-week tour of the key strategic Kunar province of Afghanistan, along the Pakistan border, Mujahideen commanders spoke bitterly about what they consider to be US-sponsored attempts to bolster the better-

organized fundamentalist resistance groups, which have been favoured with the Stinger, against the weaker moderate parties which have yet to receive many of the missiles.

The *Times* travelled in Kunar with Commander Asrat Maulvi Bilal — the chief provincial commander for the moderate Harakat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami party. He did not have Stingers and resented the fundamentalist Hizb-a and Khalis groups in the area which reportedly did.

"It would be better," he said through an interpreter at his mountain base near the Soviet garrison town of Asmar, "if these weapons stopped coming altogether. Then at least we would be able to patch up our differences."

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Seconds out

I am always an admirer of strong officiating in sport, and so Mustapha Laouedj is unquestionably my hero of the week. Laouedj was refereeing a second division football match in Algeria — the nation that gave us the renowned goalkeeper Albert Camus — when he decided to make his mark on the game. The player had begun to dispute one of his decisions in an uninhibited fashion. Laouedj promptly knocked the man unconscious with a single head butt. Realizing that anything that followed would be an anti-climax, Laouedj blew the whistle for full-time, 66 minutes having elapsed. He said afterwards: "It was legitimate dissent, to protect myself from being attacked."

Foot fault

Pat Cash, the Wimbledon champion, was awakened in his Sydney hotel this week by footsteps at the end of his bed. "I broke out into a cold sweat," he said. "At one stage I was too scared to look in case I saw something. It must have been a ghost even though I don't believe in those things." Cash made a bolt for the door, and spent the rest of the night in his coach's room. In the morning he insisted that the hotel find him another room. "I was not hallucinating, I'm not on drugs or anything," he stressed. He said he tried to doze off but the footsteps returned 10 minutes later. "I really freaked out."

● Ian Rush and Michael Landrup are team mates at Juventus. This week they played in opposition, Rush for Wales and Landrup for Denmark, and flew from Tårn to Copenhagen in the same aircraft. Rush flew tourist class, Landrup first class. Oh, Wales lost 1-0.

Polite society

Mirandinha, Newcastle United's Brazilian, is an unusual footballer. He is also eloquent and full of fine sentiments: recently he made a visit to São Paulo, his former club in Brazil, but failed to see everyone he wanted to. He left behind the following note: "I take the opportunity to ask forgiveness for those moments in which I may have seemed an egotist, too hard on anybody. If I did so, it was because I believed in the strength and understanding of everyone who played by my side."

Booted out

A American sporting institution is under threat. Before going to a game, it is customary to drive there with a picnic, and to consume it in the parking lot; it is called tailgating. People do it at Royal Ascot to dodge the hilarious prices charged for champagne. Los Angeles Rams ticket holders have been told that "the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the parking lot is prohibited by Anaheim City Ordinance". This step has been taken after a number of rowdy incidents and some nasty accidents. Commentators believe it is only a matter of time before the decree is adopted nationwide. A nation prepares to mourn.

Wall poster

By now I expect you are all agog to hear more of the nation's most eccentric sportsman, William Lindsay, who is running the entire length of the Great Wall of China. He has been in the last report, he had about 600 miles to go before taking his dip in the Yellow Sea. He wrote home: "Have no fears about my state of mind: I assure you there is thunder in my heart. The wall has taken on a human role; it's aggressive, sinister, and I'll get the better of it just as it's got the better of the million or so who wasted their time in its building."

● Ashrita Furman prides himself on record-breaking, and is in the Guinness Book of Records for marathons somersaulting and underwater pogo sticking. This summer he propelled a rowing machine on wheels for 73 miles in nine hours. "I wanted to do something special for the 200th anniversary of the US Constitution," he said. "Land rowing could be a valid sport. I'm serious."

Right winger

Fulham supporters are firm believers in ornithomancy. A loyal band of stans live in the conviction that when the kestrel flies over the Craven Cottage ground, Fulham cannot lose. The bird of good omen has been known to roost in the riverside stand, and has even been seen at night in the glare of the floodlights. Tim Goodwin, the children's writer, said: "The kestrel saved us from relegation last season. He hasn't been seen yet this season, but we are doing pretty well. We are hoping the kestrel will turn up and do enough to get us into the play-off."

Allan Massie put the cause of classical language teaching in a wider frame

The real case for Latin at school's core

All the arguments for teaching and learning Latin have been sent over the top in wave after wave, and they impale themselves on barbed wire or are mown down by indifferent machine guns. They convince nobody except those who are already convinced. Even the latest one — that the children of deprived and submerged racial groups in New York City, downtown Chicago or the backward areas of the most backward and boorish of American States, have derived great benefit from the study of Latin which has given them a new and marvellous fluency in the use of English — will either cut no ice or cut only irrelevant ice. It is hardly cogent. Has anyone, one wonders, ever really tried to teach these children anything before?

Even the greatest of classical scholars of our century, A.E. Housman, could find no argument for the study of classical languages which could convince anyone else. "The special effect," he said, "of a classical education on those who receive it, is not to transform and beautify their inner nature, but rather to confer a certain amount of polish on their surface, by teaching them things that one is expected to know and enabling them to understand the meaning of English words and use them properly... A tincture of classics would be insufficient for the purpose."

Of course, what Housman considered a tincture, others might think rather a lot. Yet this does not alter the case. The defence of classical education consisted in his opinion of "the fabrications of men anxious to impose their favourite pursuits upon others, or of men who are ill at ease in their conscience until they have invented some external justification for these pursuits." In fact no such justification was necessary. Aristotle had provided sufficient reason: "All men possess by nature a craving for knowledge." There were many, it was true, in whom that craving was stifled, but it was original in man, none the less.

Now this is all fine and noble

stuff, and I know few pieces of English prose more worth perusal than Housman's Introductory Lecture of 1892; but it can, alas, be of little comfort to those hard-pressed classics teachers who see their subject disappearing in the chill embrace of Mr Baker's core curriculum. Even Aristotle and Housman fail them, for the craving for knowledge will justify the study of entomology or Swahili as surely as of Latin.

Yet all of us who have derived benefit or pleasure from the study of the classics are to some extent perturbed by the prospect of the extinction of Latin teaching in our schools — Greek has almost gone already — and should be ready to seek arguments to justify its retention.

If the old arguments will not serve, at least in their old form, then they should be redressed. Mr Baker, full of good intentions, anxious to raise standards and restore rigour, proposes a core curriculum of English, maths and science which may occupy more than 80 per cent of school time, and so squeeze out Latin. The principle may be sound, but is the core? What about English itself? Is that a rigorous subject?

Everyone agrees that small children must learn to read and write, and that acquiring the ability to write clear expository prose and having the opportunity to write imaginatively are desirable. It is good too for small children to listen to stories and poetry, and for older ones to read poetry and plays in class, and novels on their own. There are



Housman: classics scholar who could find no real argument in favour

useful exercises such as the writing of precise, and a certain amount of interpretation (or comprehension, as it is now called) is worthwhile. There is something to be said for the study of formal grammar, though this easily becomes arid and unenjoyable. But much of the study of English is neither rigorous nor commendable. What is the point of encouraging adolescents to discuss literary questions?

The first aim of English teaching is to develop mastery of one's own language. Curiously, this may be best achieved by translating into,

and out of, a foreign language. Nothing impresses more distinctly on the scholar that words have precise and inalienable meanings, nothing requires more exact analysis of the structure of sentences and paragraphs. Now, precisely because Latin is a dead language, incapable of development, it is the perfect instrument for this purpose; that so much of our own vocabulary is Latin in origin is another, but minor, advantage. The real value of Latin is that it is fixed, precise in vocabulary, and different from English in its structures.

Other reasons given for its study — that it opens up the classical past which is part of our heritage, that it puts us in contact with great minds (who thought rather differently from us), are irrelevant. For one thing few children will take Latin far enough to be in contact with any mind greater than North and Hillard or even Botting — I am being deliberately old-fashioned — or their own teachers. But the case for teaching Latin rests on the fact that we have no better instrument for schooling the child in the use of English.

Scottish universities used to have a department called Humanity. It was essentially the study of classical tongues, but its title indicated their wider reference. Ironically, in a week in which Aberdeen University has announced plans to close its Classics department, I would propose that Mr Baker recognizes the value of the traditionally generalist Scottish education, and names one element in his core curriculum simply Humanity.

The teaching of Latin would be regarded as an important element of Humanity and fit into it as headmasters judge suitable for different classes. Humanity is a good title. It is what we need in an age of experts. And Latin, which can refine and fortify our use of language — for any study of Latin is also a study of our own language — which also necessarily involves history and culture would be seen to be central to the study of Humanity.

Simon Blow on the academic mania that has turned the gentle art of biography into a meaningless pursuit of the recondite footnote

Thumping great lives

It is nearly 70 years since Lytton Strachey published *Eminent Victorians* and so offered a revolutionary approach to biography. Gone, he hoped, would be those stodgy two-volume lives packed with fact and lifelessness. Nor did he have much time for that other trend of his day — hagiography — and he purposely dressed his subjects down so that we would not miss a single wart.

In his horror of Victorianism, he went too far at times, but his overall message rang through clear: biography is an art form. Decrying Britain for having produced so few outstanding biographers, he cited our peers in France who could compress "into a few shining pages the manifold existences of men".

The success of *Eminent Victorians* — it went to 15 reprints within eight years — encouraged publishers and authors to change their tune. The Twenties and Thirties saw the emergence of a new generation of writers who had headed Strachey. The atmospheric style of David Cecil's first book *The Stricken Deer* (1929) could not have been acceptable before. But now, instead of a solemn dirge on the disturbed and melancholy poet, Cowper — whose life would have held small interest to Victorians except as a warning against introspection — came a sparkling performance on the fears that beset this haunted poet in a generally light-hearted age.

It was biography as art, and so it was there other models. In another vein came *The Quest for Corvo* (1934) which A.J.A. Symonds sub-titled *An Experiment in Biography*. Written in the first person, *The Quest* was more like listening to a story than reading one — a story told in highly individual and eloquent tones. A little later there was Peter Quennell's *Four Studies* (1945) — four essays on 18th-century landmarks such as Sterne and Johnson — and showing once again the breakthrough offered by Strachey.

By the 1950s things had begun to go flat again. American universities told their professors that if they wished to move upwards they must publish books. The display of scholarship replaced style and imaginative endeavour. Whereas Cecil and Quennell selected incidents to give colour to the picture, selection now went to the winds. Every detail must be listed, from laundry bills to toothbrushes, or your scholarship was at fault. The universities granted healthy subsidies to dons working in these areas, and biographies grew in length. Footnotes and sources became as important as the body of the book itself.

What was the result? A stream of ponderous tomes, many by esteemed academics, filled the bookshops and set a pattern for aspiring biographers that has lasted to this day. Because it is assumed that an academic is a clever person, most of these tomes received — and receive — respectful, often laudatory, reviews. An academic may indeed be bright on his topic, but this is no guarantee that he has artistic judgement in the shaping and writing of a book. It is, in fact, rare for academics to be good writers. The scholarly details and question marks with which their lives are filled make it difficult for them to come into the open to shed obscurity.

"It is time that we ceased to be dazzled by parades of learning and demanded these books stray no further than the campus libraries"

As a result, it is this type of biography that comes most readily to mind. Among the more remarkable recent cases of killing a subject must be Professor R.W.B. Lewis's lengthy study of that very private *grande dame* of American letters, Edith Wharton. Lewis had at his fingertips a rattling good yarn. He had unearthed material which showed that this private lady had endured a seamless marriage with an unstable husband, and found physical and emotional fulfilment only in her middle forties. Around this fulfilment she had written a pornographic short story, also unearthed by Lewis for the first time. But with none of these glittering incidents did the revered Professor of English at Yale manage to weld an exciting or even painful tale. He treated Edith Wharton not like a human being, caught in a very human dilemma, but as an indexed card on which he had noted down certain facts and which he now deemed it proper, on grounds of proven scholarship, to trot out.

Lewis had failed to apprehend his fellow biographer, Leon Edel, that "the modern biographer must melt down his materials or he will smother the reader if he does not smother himself". Henry James has been more fortunate than his friend Mrs Wharton in having Edel as biographer.

On the surface, Edel's five-volume life could appear to have all the flaws of the academic's approach. It is long, heavily detailed, dealing with an essentially "literary" person, but it is rescued by good writing. Had Edel understood that readability and lightness of touch are vital — or was it simply that he was lucky enough to have writing ability? Many would do well to listen to,

the warnings he gave himself: avoid the stifling pile-up of documentary and remember that the biographer is, first of all, a storyteller.

But all too soon one is back amongst the dross. The good books shoot like unexpected luminaries from a darkened sky — *Painter's Proof*, Holroyd's *Strachey*, Acton's *T.S. Eliot* — then nothing but those thumping lives that can only enrich their publishers because we are too polite. It is time that we ceased to be dazzled by parades of learning and demanded that these books stray no further than the campus libraries. They may make excellent fodder for pedants, but they do not help us towards enlightenment. Take, for example, the respected Richard Ellmann, who made his name 25 years ago with a "definitive" 800-page life of James Joyce. He has a great deal to tell us about Joyce, his life, and his writing. On page 300, Joyce is still only 27; if I quote the following extract we can understand why:

His brother records that in the first draft of *A Portrait*, Joyce thought of a man's character as developing "from an embryo" with constant traits. Joyce acted upon this theory with his characteristic thoroughness, and his subsequent interest in the process of gestation, as conveyed to Stanislaus during Nora's first pregnancy, expressed a concern that was literary as well as anatomical.

Surely there must be a less circumlocuted way of passing on this piece of information? It is not prose but thesis writing and of no use to those hoping for clarification on a complex-enough author.

Professor Ellmann, who died recently, has now given us what he intended to be the definitive understanding of Oscar Wilde. Publishers may believe that Wilde, with the obvious scandal attached, is a perennial seller, but they are taking a risk in thinking

that 600 pages of documentary can entertain the general reader. Ellmann has produced "a monument of research", perhaps, but beyond a dip here and there, this £15 anticipated bestseller is uncomfortably indigestible.

Writing a biography myself over the past two years, I have striven not to tumble into the pitfalls that I now complain of, though the subject I had tackled had all the opportunities for an 800-pager. The story of a family that rose from peasant poverty to massive industrial wealth and on into decline allowed for plenty of heavy documentation and thesis-analysis. "Have you investigated the importance of the Tennants' possible relation to the hot-blast furnace?" one scholar asked me while I was researching the Tennants' fortune-making discovery of chemical bleach.

An exciting read is what biography should be about. And though it is fact, it should make its demands on the writer's imagination. Research does not teach you about people, and it is people who bring biography alive. Biographers have become like morticians awaiting the arrival of the next body on the slab. Each person is given the same standard treatment — perfectly acceptable in terms of research, but lifeless in narration — and "biography" conversation has become a *dumpe macabre* among the "stiffs".

"Oh, he's doing Cecil Beaton," or "Oh, she's on Nancy Mitford — a bit," or "But hasn't she been done?" or "It's high time someone got at Gerald Brenan, but I gather they won't release the papers."

Is it not really time to pick up those lost threads of 40 years ago? Must the academics really have it all their own way, and does the art form no longer stand a chance? To return to Strachey: "Who does not know them, with their ill-digested masses of material, their slipshod style, their tone of tedious panegyric, their lamentable lack of selection, of detachment, of design?" It has, alas, the ring of so many of the biographies that are foisted on us today.

Simon Blow's Broken Blood, The Rise and Fall of the Tennant Family, has just been published by Faber & Faber (£14.95).

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Telling the truth about prisons

A "brave stand from Hurd", almost all the newspapers claimed last weekend when referring to the Home Secretary's comments on capital punishment, made to the faithful in Blackpool. Perhaps it was, though it really shouldn't have taken a great deal of courage to tell them what they already knew about his views on hanging. Neither should it have required a lot of guts to announce the building of an additional 4,200 prison places.

What would have been brave, a sign of statesmanship even, would have been an honest and straightforward acknowledgement that there is a major and developing crisis in our penal system, that its causes are many and complex, that one of them is overcrowding, and that while the provision of extra cells is one answer it is by no means the most effective or desirable.

A really brave Home Secretary would have pointed out that there are currently nearly 49,000 prisoners locked up in accommodation built to contain no more than 42,000. He would have told the delegates that more than another 1,000 remand prisoners are being held in appalling dungeon-like conditions below ground in police and court cells, and that more than a third of the total prison population is two or three to a cell built for one in Victorian times, denied access to integral sanitation and work, education and recreational facilities.

He would have gone further. He would have confessed that such conditions not only make a mockery of the prison department's own stated objective of helping prisoners lead a "good and useful life", but that they also fail to meet the most elementary levels of human decency, violate internationally agreed standards for the treatment of prisoners, create tensions and serious hardships for both inmates and staff, and their families, and inevitably increase the risk of serious disorder.

And he would have alluded to the reasons for the overcrowding, to the fact that the United Kingdom puts more people behind bars, in absolute numbers and relative to population, than any other major Western European country; that there is a greater propensity on the part of the judiciary to send more people to prison today than 10 years ago, with 20 per cent of adult males convicted of indictable offences being put inside compared with 15 per cent a decade ago; and that the number of remand prisoners and the time they spent in custody has increased dramatically, and unnecessarily. He might even have said, in an aside, that only 20 per cent of those behind bars had actually committed serious offences involving such things as robbery, sex, violence, arson and drug trafficking.

A sensible, sensitive, never mind brave Home Secretary, would have seized a major public opportunity to argue the case for a substantial and permanent reduction in the prison population. He

would have enlisted the support of his listeners. He would have convinced them, because it is true, and because the evidence is readily to hand, that putting offenders into closed, unnatural, single-sex institutions is not the best way to reform or rehabilitate them. Indeed it causes recidivism, and therefore more crime.

He would have grabbed hold of the chance to prove that long sentences are less effective at deterring and reducing crime than short ones. He would certainly have relished the platform from which to acknowledge that it is futile and irresponsible to continue to spend vast amounts of public money on a prison estate that is not needed.

It might not have been a popular message, at least at first. That has to be admitted. But it would have been the truth. He would certainly not have been without solutions to offer. One means of reducing the prison population would be to impose stricter criteria to be satisfied before a custodial sentence can be imposed by the courts. The principle that the courts need guidance of this kind has already been accepted by the government. It is to be found in clause 111 of the Criminal Justice Bill where it is applied to young offenders.

The same provision can be made for adults. He could have resurrected Lord Whitelaw's 1983 suggestion of earlier release on parole, which is as relevant today as it was then, and have put his authority firmly behind the many alternatives to prison which have been shown to be as effective and cheap means of dealing with the majority of offenders without risk to the public.

It might not have gone down all that well with the ladies that do the teas at Tory fêtes. It is certainly not the stuff that standing ovations are made of. But then a Home Secretary should have other things on his mind than such ephemera. He should be recognizing that the present climate of tension and conflict within the prison system is not just attributable to overcrowding.

It has its origins in the brutal and politically cynical way in which Leon Brittan removed all hope from long-term prisoners by restricting their eligibility for parole in order to achieve a conference ovation that Hurd was denied. It stems from the feeling of hopelessness and despair and the knowledge that they have little to lose by being disruptive that is experienced by many inmates. It is caused by the brutality that undoubtedly exists in many establishments and the almost complete lack of confidence on the part of prisoners in the impartiality, the independence and the adequacy of the system of complaints to deal with it. These are the truths, some of them, and they should not require courage in their saying.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Mortality and Mr Reagan

New York
"All political lives, unless they are cut off in midstream at a happy juncture, end in failure," Enoch Powell has written, "because that is the nature of politics and of human affairs." Powell is right, and President Reagan is the latest example.

Unless Reagan takes the decisive steps that are open to him to rescue the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Robert Bork, it will be impossible to avoid the conclusion that his Administration is effectively dead. To prevent his very real achievements from being torn apart before the next election by liberal scavengers in Congress and in the civil service, he should resign and hand over to Vice-President George Bush.

This is tragic, but it is not truly a tragedy. Death is part of life, and meeting it is the supreme test of character. Reagan had six good years, from his election in 1980 until the Democrats regained control of the Senate in 1986. That's more than most prime ministers get in parliamentary systems.

Mrs Thatcher came to power only in 1979, and her tenure has already been the longest since that of Lord Liverpool in the Napoleonic era.

Reagan's record, in those six years, will eventually be seen to rank him among the great presidents. His success was the more remarkable because, whether consciously or through a quirk of character, he seemed to understand the office's inherent weakness, particularly for a conservative surrounded by entrenched liberals, unable to get full control of the legislative branch because of the Democratic gerrymander of the House of Representatives.

Central America, albeit by indirect means, and by insisting on substantial military expenditures including the "Star Wars" programme, he seems to have at least deterred the Soviet Union's developing adventurism. He got America back on an even keel, which is all it really needs.

But then Reagan ran out of luck. The appointment of Howard Baker as White House Chief of Staff and effective Prime Minister symbolizes the resurgence of the Washington Establishment. Baker is busy engineering "moderate" compromises on the budget, on strategic arms, on Central America, that will avoid confrontation — and also, of course, victory.

Above all, both Baker and Reagan appear helpless in the face of America's gathering constitutional crisis: for over a generation, neither party has been able to establish firm control over both the executive and the legislative branches. Frustrated liberals in Congress are increasingly encroaching on the presidency's prerogatives.

Their latest aggression is the hatching of Judge Bork, arguably the most distinguished jurist ever nominated to the Supreme Court. Reagan should use his constitutional power to make a "recess appointment" and place Bork temporarily on the bench when the Senate goes out of session at Christmas. As *The Wall Street Journal* noted in suggesting this course, Bork will thereupon become an election issue in 1988. And this will force the Democrats to explain why they object to a man who believes a judge's job is to enforce the law, rather than acting as an unelected philosopher-king and arbitrarily imposing the fashionable liberal agenda.

If Reagan in his 77th year lacks stomach for this fight, he might as well depart with dignity for his California ranch. Bush might be better. And if not, he will be easier to challenge for the Republican nomination once he is out of Reagan's shadow. It is generally assumed that Bush cannot be beaten anyway. So the conservatives have nothing to lose.

The author is a Senior Editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

Robert Kilroy-Silk
telling the truth
about prisons



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ONE YEAR IN PEKING

High expectations have been raised of the 13th Chinese Communist Party Congress which opens next weekend, and the Chinese leadership has done its best to encourage them. It has promised that the policies of "market socialism" and the "open door" to the outside world, which have been so much to the taste of the West and to many Chinese, will be made irreversible.

It has promised that the trend towards younger and better qualified personnel will be endorsed and that the long-awaited change of generations will be completed. The Chinese leader himself, Deng Xiaoping, has teased the world with hints that he is ready to retire and will take the opportunity afforded by the Party Congress to do so.

A year ago, any or all of these predictions might have commanded more credence than they do now. Many of the teething troubles of the new economic policies - rampant though often concealed inflation, the growing gap in living standards between rich and poor, the opportunities for self-enrichment by dishonest means - then seemed to have been recognized, if not overcome.

The separation of the Communist Party's doctrinal and regulatory function from the executive function of government in the form of the National People's Congress appeared to be proceeding with some success. A programme to streamline the military command structure and reduce the numbers of servicemen had not encountered the resistance some had feared. Abroad, China seemed to be settling in to a long-term relationship with the United States that was less hampered by illusions and with the Soviet Union and Japan that was less weighed down by the perceived injustices of the past.

An impression was widespread that China was on the threshold of a settled future and about to fill the world role that the size of its territory and population suggested it should have. The Chinese exploited the personal respect enjoyed by Deng Xiaoping and held out the tempting, if distant prospect, of the vast Chinese market to reinforce that view worldwide. They had considerable success.

Over the past year, however, much has happened to detract from those impressions. November and December, 1986, saw mass student demonstrations for better living conditions and a hazy notion of democracy. In January, the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Hu Yaobang, was suddenly

removed from his post by mechanisms that belied the existence of a settled order in China; and when Zhao Ziyang - then Premier - also took on the post of Party leader, doubt was cast on the will or the ability of the leadership to separate party and government functions in any significant way.

The ensuing campaign against Western ideas, which cost many forward-looking intellectuals their jobs and their Party cards (and thus their say in policy-making), called into question the leadership's insistence that China's opening to the outside world was irreversible. Last month's nationalist disturbances in Tibet, and the combination of self-righteousness and brutality with which the Chinese authorities handled them, undermined Peking's claims to have relaxed its policies towards minority areas. No more confidence-inspiring has been Peking's instinct, at the first news of unrest anywhere in China, to blame it on foreign incitement.

This summer, as the 13th Party Congress drew closer and the leadership retreated to its exclusive resort to finalize its policy plans, the questions raised by China's modernization programme were being posed as acutely as they have ever been, in the press and on the streets of China. Where was the ideological justification for the spread of the market through China? Where was the advanced technology and the employment of the Special Economic Zones on China's eastern seaboard were supposed to have brought?

When would the social welfare network, one of the benefits people believed would accrue from socialism, be accessible to all? How long would ordinary people continue to be worse off than those with privileged contacts or a facility for wheeler-dealing? And what of that role as an influential world power China might have claimed? Only in relations with Taiwan has there been progress towards stability, and Taiwan occupies but a small corner of Peking's expanded world theatre.

In all the questioning, the certainties offered by Chinese leaders earlier this year have diminished. The profiles of those believed to be in contention for senior posts have become blurred. Those hitherto known as "reformers" or "conservatives" now temper their beliefs with ambition for power. Even the ageing sense they might live to fight another day. The 13th Chinese Party Congress may yet fix China's future course, but not perhaps in quite the way its leaders envisaged a year ago.

THE GREAT GALE OF LONDON

Storms are for the wild places of the world, not its cities. This is one of the structural oppositions we see in Nature: country versus town, wet versus dry, raw versus cooked, wild versus tame, storm versus urbanity.

Literature and art support our primitive superstition about storms. When Dido and Aeneas mate, fires flash in heaven, the earth moves, and the presaging storm uproots the knotty oaks in the wilderness outside their cave.

Constable may have painted the storm raging around the spire of Salisbury Cathedral; and El Greco depicted rocky Toledo blasted by thunder and lightning. But they were painting against the grain of convention, for effect. When artists like Turner and Claude paint stormscapes, their minds turn naturally to wilderness and mountain, forest and ocean swelling and foaming to be exalted with the threatening clouds. Cities are protected from the rude world outside by walls and suburbs and civilization. That is what cities are for.

Urban storms are such a contradiction that we take them for portents, or invent them retrospectively as suitable harbingers for the funerals of princes. Rome, it was said, had never experienced a storm like the one on the eve of the Ides of March when Caesar fell. As Oliver Cromwell lay dying in the Palace of Whitehall, a great storm raged over London. Not even the oldest liar could remember anything like it. The royalists hoped that it was the devil coming to collect the soul of the regicide.

We think of ourselves as rational, late twentieth-century sophisticates, and do not need to expect such momentous consequences or connections from the storm that raged on Thursday night. But, although the coast and countryside suffered grievously, it was in the city where the winds came as the greatest surprise; it was as though it were against some natural law.

The parks were closed and strewn with branches and decapitated trees. They recalled

the photographs of those unnatural woods blasted by artillery on the Western Front. There were individual tragedies and individual acts of courage. Great gales roaring down ruined streets; this was not London in autumn. There was a certain exhilaration in the wind, perhaps an echo of that legendary camaraderie of the Blitz.

At least yesterday there was an excuse for the trains not running, or running late. The emergency services hurried around with sirens howling, and for once Londoners did not wonder mean-spiritedly whether their jackass din was really necessary.

In the bus queues nobody barged. Smiles were squeezed and jokes made on the Underground, where people were squashed together more intimately and for longer than usual; and there were one or two confirmed reports of strong young men giving up their seats to old ladies.

Those who live in more naturally stormy parts will remark that London is, typically and irritatingly, making a fuss about its own mild inconvenience, which was nothing to what they put up with all the time. At Penzance and the Butt of Lewis they are used to far worse storms, and not taken by surprise by them. They tie down corrugated iron and all other movable so that they cannot blow away. They wear sensible clothes. When the big winds blow, they stay indoors.

It does some good for Londoners occasionally to breathe a breath of untamed, anarchic Nature. It comes into the heart of their city twice a day anyway, with the rise and fall of London's river carrying the surge, and swell, and stink of the North Sea. But Londoners ignore their river wantonly, unlike the inhabitants of any other great riverine city.

To the City of the Big Bang and the lemming rush hour, the big blow brought death, damage and inconvenience. It raised important questions of bureaucratic readiness which will rage for weeks to come. But it was also a healthy reminder that there is a wild world out there.

FOURTH LEADER

Moscow Radio recently announced that a dog, while swimming across a river in Siberia, had been swallowed by a giant pike six feet long; the pike had subsequently been netted by a fisherman, who noticed, sharp-eyed *moujik* that he was, that the pike had a dog attached to it. The fisherman withdrew the dog from the fish's mouth, and it ran off barking, apparently none the worse for wear.

Pull the other one, Mikhail Sergeyevich, it's got Kremlin bells on. Indeed, it's a mercy the story doesn't include a report that the dog's name was Jonah.

Pike are notoriously voracious, greedy and unforgiving; moreover, they can grow to a considerable length. All the same, there is no report that the dog was a chihuahua, and hitherto the largest beasts pike have been known to seize have been rats and ducklings. A dog of any spirit at all would surely have put up more of a fight, particularly since, if the story is to be believed, it was unharmed. But perhaps Moscow Radio is going to announce next week that the pike had false teeth and had left them in a glass on the bedside table.

Fishermen's tales are tall; but this one is a

nonpareil skyscraper. How big was the dog? What breed? How wide could the pike stretch its jaws? Is Moscow Radio sure it wasn't an alligator? What was the net made of, that it could bag a pike? How long had the dog been in the pike when the fish was landed? Is the fisherman quite sure that the pike had not already been made up into *quenelles de brochet*? What do they drink at Moscow Radio, and whatever it is, do they export it?

It can surely do no harm to tell the story of the Duke of Wellington again. One night in the mess, a leaf was found in a bottle of wine, and officer after officer recounted similar discoveries - beetle, twig, mouse - each, of course, being bigger fry than the last. The Duke, not to be outdone, claimed that he had once found a rat in a wine bottle, and a young subaltern, not thinking, said "Well, it must have been a very small rat".

The Duke glared at him, and cried "It was a damned large rat". Appalled at what he had started, the subaltern tried to put matters right, stammering "W-w-well, I suppose it must have been a very large bottle". The Duke glared even more ferociously, and shouted "It was a damned small bottle". Moscow Radio, please copy.

Street trees that fall victim to gales

From Mr Hugh Geddes

Sir, The saddest thing about the damage to street trees caused by Thursday night's gale is not so much in the loss of so many mature specimens, as that so many young trees, which would eventually have replaced them, were blown over.

The widespread tree planting by local authorities in recent years has been superficially encouraging. But a depressingly high proportion of the trees planted died soon afterwards and many of those that survived were either blown over by the wind, or will be when they become more top-heavy.

The reason is simply that they do not have well-developed root systems, either because they were originally container-grown and badly potted on, causing kinked and/or circling roots (conditions which do not correct themselves but grow worse with time); or, the most common reason, that street trees are planted by unskilled labour in inadequately-prepared ground.

Most root systems are shallow and are intimidated by the totally hostile environment of compacted inorganic material into which they are all too often stuck.

The effect is that those roots which do develop tend to circle in the small quantity of organic material that goes in with the lucky ones, as if in a container, with the same eventual results as those already described. (By comparison, there has been very little damage to young trees planted in open ground in the parks).

Well-planned and maintained urban forestry is a very cheap way of enhancing urban environments. It is a shame that, for want of a lit-

tle understanding, so much long-term potential is wasted.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH GEDDES, Director,
Levin Bernstein Associates
(landscape architects),
30 Oval Road, NW1,
October 16.

From the Reverend N. R. Morrison
Sir, Following "rather" - a convenient umbrella for all sorts of miscalculations - a new word has emerged in the weather forecasts on Radio 4. It occurred not once but at least twice in a recent broadcast. It describes the rain as "organized".

The comfort that believing persons might glean from this apparent acknowledgment by the official representatives of at least one branch of experimental science of the existence of higher powers is tempered by the fear that these may be organizing our distress. Already, with 4.54in. of rain here, this month is the year's wettest, other than June when the total rainfall was 5.32in.

Here in the Cotswolds my barograph's recording at 4 a.m. this morning of 960 millibars was its lowest in at least 20 years. But before we wax too lyrical about today's excesses, we should consult the fascinating calendar in H. H. Lamb's *The English Climate* (C. E. P. Brooks, 1954), in which the author records 931 millibars in London on November 7, 1665. And, if Mr Lamb were continuing his calendar, October 16, 1987 would clearly vie with December 7-8, 1703, when, in the most violent gale ever known in the south of England, the Eddystone Lighthouse was washed away.

Yours faithfully,
NIAL R. MORRISON,
The Vicarage, Randwick,
Stroud, Gloucestershire,
October 16.

The Thatcher years

From Lord Broxbourne, QC

Sir, Your report (October 10) of the Prime Minister's speech at the Conservative Party conference records that her lighthearted reference to Lord Liverpool's 15 years of premiership was greeted with laughter and applause. And rightly so. It was a nice exercise in historical evocation; but it was not made *au grand sérieux*, and hardly constitutes a valid precedent. There are too many points of distinction.

First, 15 years of Parliament in the early 19th century were not the equivalent of 15 years in the late 20th century. Those were days when the Septennial Act was in force, with the average period between elections of six years, compared with a statutory maximum now of five years and a post-war average of only three and one-half.

Next, when elections did come in those days before the Reform Act of 1832, they were contested on a very restricted franchise, with an abundance of "rotten boroughs" and a high proportion of uncontested returns.

Nor would Lord Liverpool's 15 years be a happy precedent for

the point of view of achievement, many as they were by high taxation, social discontent, Peterloo, and the unpopular trial of Queen Caroline. On a personal note, too, sadly both the origin of the 15 years and its end were marked by death - the assassination of Spencer Perceval in 1812 and Lord Liverpool's own death, still in his fifties.

And there is one other point of clear dissimilarity - Lord Liverpool was not the star of his own show. For every one person who recalls his name these are many to whom Cabinet colleagues like Canning and Castlereagh are familiar historical figures.

Fortunately, Mrs Thatcher need not depend on precedent. She has personality, policies, programmes and performance to create her own precedent for a fourth term. Personally, I would like to see it - and after all, from my point of view, she is an immensely youthful and of one thing, Sir, you may be certain, any aspiring Cannings or Castlereaghs would be kept in their place.

Your obedient servant,
BROXBORNE,
House of Lords,
October 10.

Smear test errors

From Mr R. H. Martin and others

Sir, As colleagues of Dr Kathleen Lodge for up to 30 years and from many different disciplines, we and many others at this hospital are disturbed that the inquiry by the Liverpool Health Authority which accused her of "massive errors of professional judgement" ("Consultant's 911 smear test errors", September 24) was unable to find "any logical explanation".

None of us was privy to the deliberations of the inquiry, nor have we seen the full report; but knowing Dr Lodge's previous

excellent record, we feel that there must be a convincing explanation to reassure women undergoing cervical cytology and perhaps to restore Dr Lodge's distinguished reputation. In particular, we have seen no indication that her faculties have declined.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. MARTIN, L. DOYLE,
G. MOREWOOD, JOHN DARK,
J. S. WHITTAKER, E. BETT,
Wythenshawe Hospital,
University of Manchester School of Medicine,
Southmoor Road, Manchester 23,
October 8.

'Pay as you learn'

From the Reverend A. G. Hellier

Sir, The leader of Hereford and Worcester County Council (October 12) forgot to say that instrumental music teachers in the county have been cut back from the equivalent of 45 full-time teachers to 25, and this to cover an acute stretching from Redditch to Ross. Many pupils are now taught in larger groups by teachers who

often have no time for a lunch break.

Some orchestras still flourish but owe more to private tuition than to the dedication of county teachers, whose expertise is frustrated by inadequate provision.

Yours sincerely,
A. G. HELLIER,
Monmouth Road,
Marden, Hereford,
October 13.

Armada records

From Mrs Elizabeth A. Stuart

Sir, Even the Black Book for Plymouth (one of our earliest borough records, since there are so few medieval local records for this town) does not tell us a lot about the Armada (letters, September 24, October 5, 10).

1587: In this year the honourable Lord Charles Howard, Lord high Admiral of England accompanied by sundry noble men and others amongst the w^c was Sir Francis Drake Knight and John Hawkins esquire leaving under his charge divers of the quene's shippes, sett fourth to impeache the Kinge of Spaines fleet, wch wer expected to come to invade this land, arrived here in this barborough with other merchant shippes in number all 120 and here remained, untill intelligence was given that the enymies were upon of Coast, and then they putte fourth. This beinge the 21 of July the sounde after the enymies came in open seight of our barborough, and of shippes geyvinge theym chase and so percell to the eastward and hadd mayne feights together. Butt, godd be praised, the enymie hadd never power to land someho as one manne upon anye terriorie of o^r.

A detailed study I have made of the maps of Plymouth about this time (none of which is now held locally) suggests that the Armada, far from signalling the end of the story in terms of the Spanish threat, marks the point at which corsairs began to take it seriously, at any rate so far as concerned the defences of Plymouth.

The fort on the Hoe, for instance, was built during the following decade, and Federico Genibelli, an Italian engineer who drew plans of the fort so late as 1601-02, was able to write

my opinion is that the port standeth in great danger to fall into the hands of the enemies, and the goodness and situation of the harbour such, that to take it again from the enemies hands, the same will be very hard.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH A. STUART (Area Archivist, West Devon Record Office),
Unit 3, Clare Place,
Cotswold, Plymouth, Devon,
October 13.

From Mrs M. E. D. Biggs
Sir, Could it have been the (lamentable) invention of printing that reduced our spelling to uniformity and denied us the fun of such imaginative manipulation of the alphabet as it shown in the Armada records?
Yours faithfully,
MERIEL BIGGS,
Farnaby's, Elgin Road,
Weybridge, Surrey,
October 14.

Legal history in the unmaking

From Sir Robert Megarry

Sir, Lord Devlin has told us (article, October 7) that before 1873 the Lord Chancellor's main judicial job was "as the principal (sole until 1815) judge in Chancery".

This seems a little ungrateful to generations of Masters of the Rolls whose decisions had, for over two centuries, contributed thousands of pages of learning to the Chancery reports. All that happened in 1813 was that the two judges in Chancery became three, when the office of Vice-Chancellor of England was created.

Now Mr Penty (October 12) writes to say that there is "a slight legislative difficulty" in Lord Devlin's suggestion that while the Lord Chancellor should continue to discharge his legal duties, there should be a Lord Keeper to discharge his political duties. For, says Mr Penty, the office of Lord Keeper was "established" by an Act of 1562, and that Act has now been repealed.

Yet by 1562, there had been Lord Keepers for over three centuries: early examples are John Mansel (1246) and John de Lexington (1247). The Act of 1562 established no office. It merely recited that "some question hath

of late risen, whether like place, authority, preeminence [*sic*], jurisdiction and power" belonged or ought to belong to the Lord Keeper as belonged or ought to belong to the Lord Chancellor, or not; and it then answered the question by a formal declaration in the affirmative.

The repeal leaves untouched the power of the Crown to appoint a Lord Keeper. But legislation might well be needed if a Lord Keeper is to be appointed in addition to (and not instead of) a Lord Chancellor, with a distribution of powers and duties between them. At present, L.C. and L.K. are one, with the title L.C. esteemed as bearing the greater honour.

The last Lord Keeper was Sir Robert Henley (1757-61). As such, he presided over the House of Lords, though, not being a peer, he could not speak in the House. Lord Eldon and Lord St. Leonards tell us that this led to Sir Robert being "frequently much out of temper"; for sometimes he had to put the question for the reversal of his own decisions in Chancery without having been able to speak in their defence. He was consoled with a peerage in 1760, the Lord Chancellorship in 1761, and an earldom (Northampton) in 1764.

The high watermark for Lord Keepers was in the reign of Charles I. He never appointed a Lord Chancellor, but except when the Great Seal was in commission had only Lord Keepers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. E. MEGARRY,
5 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
October 12.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 17 1925

The Locarno Treaty was regarded at the time as something of a landmark in the post-war settlement of European affairs. Austen Chamberlain, the British Foreign Secretary, won golden opinions for his tact, shrewdness and diplomatic skills. He was a co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace for 1925.

LOCARNO.

THE CONFERENCE ENDED.

FACT INITIALED.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SUCCESS.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LOCARNO, Oct. 16.

The Treaty of Locarno was signed this afternoon. The Conference which had met at 6.30 sat for an hour. At a quarter past 7 M. Rollin, the Belgian jurist, came to the window of the Praetorium and held aloft in his hands a bulky document. The large crowd which had gathered in the streets outside broke into cheers, and simultaneously all the public buildings, streets, squares, and lakeside quays became outlined with multi-coloured lights. Soon afterwards the delegates appeared at the windows of the Praetorium, first M. Briand and Herr Stresemann together, and then Mr. Austen Chamberlain. Soon afterwards the delegates left the building and drove to their hotels. The Conference of Locarno had brought its work through perilous paths to a triumphant and successful conclusion.

The document which will no doubt be known to the world in future as the 'Treaty of Locarno' consists of a protocol and six annexes. The protocol, which was the only document actually signed, simply states that the six annexed treaties were negotiated and initiated at Locarno. The treaties are, first the Security Pact itself, then the four Arbitration Treaties, and lastly the Collective Security Pact. The latter is the declaration made by all the Allied Governments with regard to the amendment of the League Covenant. Its purpose is to give Germany a guarantee that she will have a reasonable chance of getting the Covenant altered as she wishes. The whole series of documents is bound up with a ribbon in the colours of the Canton of Ticino, which happen to be the same as the City of Paris, and sealed with the seal of the Municipality of Locarno.

(During the final day of the conference, Mussolini arranged a press conference at the Grand Hotel.)

In view of the repressive attitude adopted by his own Government towards the freedom of opinion in his own country, a great many correspondents, including (with a single exception) all the correspondents of British newspapers, declined the invitation. A group of them were standing in the hall of the hotel when Signor Mussolini came away from his gathering. Recognising the correspondent of the *Daily Herald*, he walked up to him and jauntily asked him in French how Communism was getting on in England. The correspondent replied that he was not a Communist, and did not know. Signor Mussolini then said he thought he had met the correspondent at Cannes, but that perhaps he had made a mistake. "As you often have in other matters," was the rejoinder.



COURT AND SOCIAL COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 16: His Excellency Mr J. Chaozhu was received in audience by the Prince of Wales and The Duke of York. Counsellors of State acting on behalf of the Queen, and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the People's Republic of China to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Their Royal Highnesses: Mr Zhang Yijun (Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission), Mr Du Kuanyi (Deputy Attaché), Mr Li Haoran (Counsellor, Commercial), Madame Zhang Youyun (Counsellor, Political), Mr Zhang Yonghao (Counsellor, Education), Mr Lin Lin (Counsellor, Consular Affairs), Mr Xu Youyu (Counsellor, Science) and Mr Wu Zhenduo (Counsellor, Administrative).

Mrs Ji had the honour of being received by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of York. Mr David Gillmore (Deputy Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Their Royal Highnesses was also present, and the gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Beaverbrook (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this evening upon the arrival of The King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Civic Trust, this morning at Kensington Palace received Mr Christopher Benson.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, this morning at Kensington Palace received Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Clark upon relinquishing command of the 4th Battalion.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Abbeyfield Society, this afternoon opened the Society's 1,000th House at 2 Brunswick Park, Camberwell.

Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Anderson was in attendance. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon opened the Vivien Duffield Centre in Basingstoke.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Elizabeth Blair.

Lord Crickhowell

The life barony conferred on Mr Roger Nicholson Edwards has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Crickhowell, of Pont Esob in the Black Mountains and County of Powys.

Service Reception

The Queen's Regiment Brigadier H.C. Millman, Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, received the officers and their guests at the annual regimental cocktail party held last night at the Banqueting House.

Cardinal Newman: Anglican saint?

Richard Harries

By a choice piece of Divine serendipity I found myself last Sunday preaching at St Clement's, Oxford.

This was the church where John Henry Newman served his Anglican curacy. I was there two days after the anniversary of his admission to the Roman Catholic Church in 1845, a date which is now marked among the supporters of his cause by a novena for his canonization.

While at St Clement's, Newman had been so assiduous in visiting the poor that his father complained he was overdoing it. He had to write back to assure him that his visits were much appreciated.

Although St Clement's today would regard itself as Evangelical, in fact it has probably not changed that much since Newman first raised the £5,000 for its building. It is the Church of England that has changed: in significant measure as a result of Newman's influence while still an Anglican, through the Oxford Movement.

Living in Oxford, Newman waits behind every corner: in Oriel Common Room, at Littlemore and in the Church of St Mary the Virgin where, at the recent Diocesan Festival, Tennial Evans, dressed for the part, read one of

Newman's timeless sermons — timeless, that is, except for what is now judged sexist language.

In Dublin and Birmingham it might be different, but in Oxford it is difficult to think of Newman as other than perpetually Anglican.

One reason for this is that when Anglican clergy study church history they investigate the impact of the Oxford Movement on the Church of England but do not follow up the rest of Newman's life as a Roman Catholic.

So to Anglicans Newman still breathes the damp, marshy air of Oxford he so much disliked. "The air of Oxford does not suit me," he wrote. "I feel it directly I return to it."

At 11pm on October 8, 1845, Father Dominic Barberi, soaked to the skin after five hours on the top of a coach in appalling weather, arrived at Newman's house at Littlemore. There, drying himself out before the fire, he heard Newman's confession, given "with extraordinary humility and devotion." It was so long it had to be finished next day.

Newman's departure from the Church of England caused a sensation. Keble said the spring had gone out of his

year, Gladstone described it as an event of "calamitous importance", and Disraeli said it made the Church of England "reel".

But for Anglicans today it seems only that he went into another room in the house in which our good Lord said there were many rooms.

When Peter Cornwell, former vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, was recently received into the Roman Catholic Church, the reaction of his friends was instinctively personal, not ecclesiastical. Would he be able to find as much fulfilment in his future ministry as he had found in his past one? Would he be able to support his family?

The move of an Anglican today to another part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is not a defection but a change in personal vocation and sphere of ministry.

In some profound sense Christian unity has overtaken us. The friends who once parted, hold hands under the table. But what do Anglicans make of the campaign to make Cardinal Newman a saint?

Anglican procedures for including some outstanding post-Reformation Christian in the calendar are somewhat prosaic. The appropriate Syn-

od committee considers papers, puffs at its pipe and comes up with a nicely balanced list.

So Josephine Butler finds herself on December 30 and Charles Simeon the Evangelical divine on November 13.

Yet the most outstanding lay Christian that the Church of England has produced, Dr Johnson, finds himself out in the cold. Johnson's deeply anguished, deeply moving life as a Christian believer does not conform to neat patterns of Catholic or Evangelical piety.

And one cannot help feeling that despite all these names on the list Anglicans have no very real grasp of the reality of the communion of saints. Some Anglicans might pray "Blessed Charles, pray for us" (meaning Charles I, King and martyr, feast day January 30).

It is difficult to imagine many Anglicans saying "Blessed Charles, pray for us", meaning Charles Simeon. But if the blessed departed are close to God with us on their knees, and God close to us, how can we not think of their prayers for us availing?

Alas, though, even the Roman Catholic Church seems now to have a very attenuated view of saints. You can go to a Roman Catholic Mass and

Mary will hardly receive a cursory nod let alone a "Hail Mary".

Newman's influence in the Anglican Church has been enormous; but the source of it is less in his formal theology than in his hymns. Several times a year most Anglicans will sing "Praise to the Holiest in the Height" (English Hymnal 471), "Lead Kindly Light" (English Hymnal 425) and "Firmly believe and truly" (English Hymnal 390).

Yet there are limits even to the influence of hymns. Despite the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission it is difficult to imagine many Anglicans singing verse four of "Firmly I Believe and Truly" with conviction:

And I hold in veneration
For the love of his alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
And her teachings as his own.

Blessed John Henry you are still ours (though not exclusively ours). Help us not only with your hymns but with your prayers.

Perhaps the Church of England will recognize this and give him a day of his own in the Anglican calendar.

●The Right Rev Richard Harries is the Bishop of Oxford

Science report

Favourite victim for the cuckoo

By Gareth How Davies

The reed warbler has inherited the record cards of 73,750 nests of the six main hosts of the cuckoo.

Among the six British species whose nests most commonly attract the broody cuckoo, the reed warbler is the only one to suffer an increase in attendance.

Over the past 40 years there have been significant decreases in the percentages of cuckoo, robin and pied wagtail nests taken over by the parasitic cuckoo. However, the percentage of reed warbler nests has more than doubled.

The rate for the meadow pipit, previously thought along with the cuckoo to be the main target of the *Cuculus canorus*, has also shown a small decrease.

The evidence is contained in the nest record card scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, which contains details of nests studied by thousands of volunteers since 1939.

Two researchers in Cambridge University's Depart-

ment of Zoology analysed the record cards of 73,750 nests of the six main hosts of the cuckoo.

In the cards for the period 1939 to 1971, 2.18 per cent of cuckoo nests and 3.12 per cent of meadow pipit nests were taken over. The percentage for reed warblers was 3.01. By the period 1972 to 1982 the figure for reed warblers had risen to 7.29 per cent and that for the meadow pipit, and for cuckoo, declined to 1.52 per cent and 2.21 per cent.

The researchers conclude that the recent changes in parasitism are mostly due to a decline in overall cuckoo numbers, but that such reasons as changes in food supply or winter mortality.

However, against this trend, there is an increase in those cuckoos that choose the reed warbler, partly due to the greater reproduction success of these cuckoos with this particular host.

Source: *Journal of Animal Ecology*, October 1987, 56, 873-883.

Dinners

Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol
The Bishop of Bristol and the Mayor of Bristol attended the annual dinner of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol held last night at Merchants' Hall, Clifton.

Mr J.E.D. Wilcox, Senior Warden, Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, and Mr R.A. Chermishe, High Sheriff of Avon, also spoke.

Desert Dining Club
Mr David Hall, President of the Desert Dining Club, was host at the annual meeting and dinner held last night at the Aldenham. Mr Richard Snailham, chairman, and Mr Peter Drake, secretary, were among those present.

Gordonstoun Association
Sir Iain and Lady Margaret Tennent were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Gordonstoun Association held last night at the Café Royal. Mr Graham Neil, chairman of the association, presided.



Mr Harry Carpenter

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Louis Benjamin, theatrical impresario, 65; Mr Stephen Bishop-Kovacs, pianist, 47; Mr George Mackay Brown, author, 66; Mr Harry Carpenter, sports commentator, 62; Mr Alexander Cooke, consulting physician, 88; the Earl of Dalhousie, 73; Sir Denis Dobson, QC, former Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 79; Mr Alan Garner, author, 53; Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, 65; Mr Christopher Harding, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 48; Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 49; Lord Kilbracken, 67; Sir Harry Livermore, solicitor, 79; Sir Robert Macintosh, anaesthetist, 90; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 72; Mr Rodrigo Moylan, painter, 77; Lady Salton, 57; Mrs Mary Prime Minister of Canada, 69; Sir Melford Stevenson, former High Court judge, 85; Mr Donald Stewart, former MP, 67; Mr B.D. Taylor, chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 52; Mr G.H. Turnbull, chairman, Inchcape, 61.

TOMORROW: Lord Kimball, 59; Miss Melina Mercouri, actress and Greek politician, 62; Miss Marina Navratilova, tennis player, 31; Sir Joseph Povey, former vice-chancellor, University of Aston in Birmingham, 72; Sir Melford Stevenson, former High Court judge, 85; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, 61; Mr Pierre Trudeau, CH, former Prime Minister of Canada, 69; Dame Janet Vaughan, former principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 88; Major-General J.C. Walker, 84; Vice-Admiral Sir James Willis, 64.

Plumbers' Company
The following have been elected officers of the Plumbers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Leon Hill; Wardens, Vice-Master Sir John Lee; Renter Warden, Mr Michael G. Wayman.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.W.M. Bowen and Miss B.A. Barker
The engagement is announced between Alan William Murray, son of Mr and Mrs John Bowen, of Talbot Woods, Bournemouth, Dorset, and Beverly Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barker, of Tingit, Bedfordshire.

Mr M.E. de Jong and Miss A.M. Gysen
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs E. de Jong, of Tangle, and Anne-Marie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.T. Gysen, of Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr A.A. Floyer-Acland and Miss P.L.P. Watlen
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Brigadier and Mrs Stafford Floyer-Acland, of West Stafford, Dorset, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Watlen, of Owipen, Gloucestershire.

Mr W.E. Gemmell and Miss E.J. Watson
The engagement is announced between William Ruthven, younger son of Mr and Mrs William Ruthven Gemmell, of Falkirk, and Fiona Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon William Watson, of Edinburgh.

Dr R.L. Murray and Miss S.J. Stewart
The engagement is announced between Robert Ian, younger son of Mrs Molly Murray and the late Mr Stewart Murray, of Elgin, Cape, and Sally-Jayne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Stewart, of KwaZulu, Natal.

Dr D.E.O. Redman and Miss J.M. Carr
The engagement is announced between David Robert, elder son of Dr and Mrs Malcolm Redman, of Malton, North Yorkshire, formerly of Warrington, Co Down, Northern Ireland, and Jane Katherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Carr, of Bath, Avon.

Mr J.C. Robinson and Miss C.J. de Frez
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Charles, son of Mr David Robinson, of 51 Sloane Gardens, London, SW1, and of Mrs Jane Robinson, of Kew, and Camilla Jane, elder daughter of Mr H. Michael de Frez, FRCS, and Mrs de Frez, of Constantia, Cape Town.

Mr D.P.E. Smart and Miss C.M. McKay
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Rev R.E. Smart and Mrs Smart, of Rufford, Lancashire, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.R. McKay, of Cambridge.

Marriages

Mr G. Barker and Miss S. Stratford
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 10, 1987, at All Saints Church, Hursley, between Mr Graham Barker and Miss Sally Stratford.

Mr T.J. Finney and Miss H.A.C. Paice
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 3, 1987, at St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, Sussex, son of Mr Timothy John Finney, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Finney, of Bradford, Yorkshire, and Miss Catherine Paice, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Paice, of Mayfield, Sussex. The Rev Nicholas Reade officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Fiona Birrell, Miss Lynette Sale and Kate and Victoria Shaw. Mr David Jones was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Today's royal engagements
The Princess Royal, Patron of the Association of Wrens, will attend the association's seventieth anniversary reunion at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from 10.00 am, and, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will attend the trust's governors' dinner at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, at 8.00.

Princess Alexandra will be in New Delhi, India, to visit the Henry Moore Exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

Richmond Tutorial College

Mr Carey Palmer, Founding Principal of Richmond Tutorial College, announces the following election for Michaelmas Term, 1987: To a Bowden Foundation Scholarship, Susan Lynn Jenner (St. Catherine's Senior School, Tickenham, Middlesbrough).

He then went to Edinburgh to lecture on the history of sculpture for the newly established fine art degree, later becoming professor. His impact was profound. He saw teaching not as a job of work, but rather as a duty to the young, and his students regarded him with affection and respect.

Robertson collaborated on the catalogue of Italian

LORD ARMSTRONG

Lord Armstrong, of Bamburgh and Cragside, who died on October 1, belonged to the family which was once one of the great forces in Newcastle industry. He was 68.

He succeeded his father in 1972. The impact of death duties then brought about the handing over to the National Trust of the famous memorial to the first Lord Armstrong, the Victorian "Old England" house, Cragside, designed for him by Norman Shaw. Appropriately for an engineering family, it was the first house in England to be lit by hydro-electricity.

William Henry Cecil John Robin Watson-Armstrong, third Baron Armstrong, was born on March 6, 1919, and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge.

During the war he served with the Scots Guards and was for a time an ADC to Field Marshal Montgomery.

He was an underwriting member of Lloyd's.

He is survived by his wife Mariella and two adopted children. There was no heir to the title.

OBITUARY

MR PERCY COHEN

Tory stalwart behind the scenes

Mr Percy Cohen, CBE, once described as the Conservative Party's encyclopaedia, died on October 15. He was 95. He worked at Conservative Central Office for 48 years, latterly as joint director of the Research Department.

His capacity for producing politically useful information was prodigious and his memory legendary. He edited campaign guides for five general elections — books that earned a reputation not just for providing background information for candidates, but also as important, unbiased reference books, that found their way on to shelves in many offices which did not have any connection with politics, "probably providing useful ammunition for all political parties."

Percy Cohen was born on Christmas Day, 1891, and became a party employee in 1911, on the publicity staff, moving later to the library. He was employed in Central Office, except for World War service, until 1959, and he was involved in a dozen general elections. By 1936, his work in the library and information department was sufficiently well recognised to earn him a CBE.

The range of subjects with which he was at home was all-embracing, but he had special expertise in the field of national insurance. In 1932, he published *The British Sys-*

tem of Social Insurance (with an introduction by Neville Chamberlain), and, in 1938, *Unemployment Insurance and Assistance in Britain*.

He edited a large range of party publications, including the *Constitutional Year Book* of the campaign guides, that appeared before the war.

From 1942 until he retired, he edited the regular *Notes on Current Politics*. During the war he was secretary to several committees investigating post-war problems.

After the Labour victory of 1945, when Central Office was re-organised to meet the changes of the post-war world, Cohen became one of three directors of the Research Department, strengthening its vital backbone role of providing information and editing publications.

In 1964 he produced a substantial work, never published, under the title *Disraeli's Child*, which described the organization of the party since 1867.

Cohen was an outstanding, although always self-effacing, figure in the Anglo-Jewish community. He was "Father" of the Board of Deputies, on which he first served in 1925, and on the council of the Anglo-Jewish Association.

He married, in 1917, Rosa Abrams, who died in 1973. They had a son and a daughter.

MISS MARIA IVOGÜN

Miss Maria Ivoğun, distinguished Hungarian soprano, has died at the age of 95. Her most famous role was Zerbinetta in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and it was in that part that she made her Covent Garden debut in 1924.

Her fabulous technique made light of the extraordinary difficulties of the character's lengthy aria, as can be heard on her famous record of the piece. The composer himself spoke of her in the part as "unique and without rival."

Her voice, light, flexible, attractive, was ideal for coloratura roles, and she had the personal charm to match her vocal capabilities.

She was born Ilse Kemper on November 18, 1891, in Budapest. Bruno Walter engaged her for the Bavarian State Opera at Munich in 1913, where she first appeared as Mimmi and then as the Queen of Night in *The Magic Flute*, another of her best parts.

She remained in Munich until 1925, being especially admired as Zerlina, which she also sang at the Salzburg Festival in 1925.

In 1917, at Munich, she created the role of Ighino in Pfitzner's *Palestrina*, with her future husband, the tenor Karl Erb, in the title role. Two years later she sang the title part in the same composer's *Christelheim*.

She appeared to have retired from the stage in 1932 but she continued to sing successfully on the recital platform, being a noted interpreter of Lieder.

She also began to teach. Among her most renowned pupils were Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Rita Streich.

Miss Ivoğun left a sizeable legacy for the gramophone, which gives a very fair idea of her intense musicality, her pure tone, and simplicity of manner.

She was married twice, her second husband being the accompanist, Michael Rauchenstein.

PROF GILES ROBERTSON

Professor Giles Robertson, an authority on the art of the Renaissance, died in France on September 21, at the age of 73. He was Watson Gordon professor of fine art at Edinburgh University from 1972 until 1981.

Giles Henry Robertson was born at Cambridge on October 16, 1913, where his father, D. H. Robertson, was regius professor of Greek. He went to the Leys school and read Greats at New College, Oxford. Afterwards, he travelled widely, and in Vienna he met Johannes Wilde, the eminent scholar of Venetian painting, who encouraged in him an interest in Renaissance art.

His war service was in the Searchlight Battalion, and in the Foreign Office, and finally he was sent to Westphalia to care for war damaged monuments.

He then went to Edinburgh to lecture on the history of sculpture for the newly established fine art degree, later becoming professor. His impact was profound. He saw teaching not as a job of work, but rather as a duty to the young, and his students regarded him with affection and respect.

LORD ARMSTRONG

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pictures in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, where he had worked before the war. His first book was on the Venetian painter, Vincenzo Catena. It displays the Russian eye for pictures which led him to maintain a certain wariness of the modern dependence on colour photographs.

His gifts as an art historian were revealed in full in his book on Giovanni Bellini, Robertson saw the Renaissance as having deeper springs than a mere revival of antiquity. He published many articles on Italian art and on Johannes Wilde's death, collated Wilde's lectures on Venetian paintings in a book. Unhappily, his own projected book on Titian was not completed.

Though reserved by nature he was not afraid to speak his mind, but his views were tempered by a humane sense of justice. He bore his considerable learning with wit and lightness.

In 1943 he married Eleanor Clark with whom he founded, in 1957, the Scottish Georgian Society for the preservation of buildings. She survives him with their four sons and one daughter.

Walter — the "Sir" never seemed an appropriate, nor a sufficient, distinction — was revered by the court of the company for being so different from most of them, and loved for nevertheless adapting himself completely to their ways.

His grasp of the company's affairs, his fastidious taste in matters of decoration, and his feeling for the history of the company, and the learning which fed this, were formidable, but always displayed in a way never to make them daunting.

He cherished the company, and it cherished his memory as one of the greatest men ever to have belonged to it.

SIR WALTER OAKESHOTT

Mr Myles Glover, Clerk to the Skinners' Company, writes:

Your obituary (October 14) of Sir Walter Oakeshott made no reference to his connection with the Skinners' Company, of which he was Master for 1960/61. This was as much one of the things he set most store by in his life as his connection with Tonbridge School.

Walter — the "Sir" never seemed an appropriate, nor a sufficient, distinction — was revered by the court of the company for being so different from most of them, and loved for nevertheless adapting himself completely to their ways.

His grasp of the company's affairs, his fastidious taste in matters of decoration, and his feeling for the history of the company, and the learning which fed this, were formidable, but always displayed in a way never to make them daunting.

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October 17-23, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS



Happy men: left, Levin on the Rhine, "the most varied and fascinating of all Europe's rivers"; above, two journeymen carpenters ply their trade in Passau, Switzerland; below left, Christian Patt, musician and instrument-maker, in 16th century costume; below right, hand-hauled ferry and tricycle provide transport along the river's delta in the Netherlands



A man who is not fascinated by fire and water has a gap in his soul: I have been enthralled by both all my life, and although I have felt it wise to restrain my incipient pyromania (if I am staying in a house with a fire in the grate and anybody else lights it I sulk for the rest of the weekend) I have at least been able to pursue my other passion more freely.

The sea means little to me; there is too much of it, and it is too uniform. But rivers fill me with a rapt wonder. I know of no serenity more profound than what I feel when I sit on the mighty terrace of the Taj Mahal with that marble glory beside me and the Jumna flowing with majestic slowness at its feet and mine.

There are many rivers that I love: the Thames and the Loire, the Mosel and the Arno, the Danube and the Hudson - I even have a soft spot for the Potomac, and my only glimpse of the Rio Grande embued me with a longing, fortunately controlled, to sail all the way down it. But the river I love best, and know best, is the Rhine. There are stretches on it that I have been visiting for nearly 40 years - Basle and Lake Constance, Strasbourg and Mainz, Koblenz and Bonn, Cologne and the last stretch through Holland, where the river breaks up, and even changes its name.

Surely the Rhine is the most varied and fascinating of all Europe's rivers, perhaps of all the

world's. Its history alone would fill - has filled - entire libraries, and no wonder, because its life has been recorded in detail ever since Roman times, when much of it marked the furthest marches of the Empire. (The fortifications were built by Drusus, and when he died, at Mainz, Augustus came from Rome to give the address at his memorial service.) But the Rhine can be classified under any number of headings: war, religion (much of the Reformation was fought out on its banks), legend (Bishop Hatto has been cleared by modern research, but the tourist steamers still point out the tower where the rats ate him), wine and music.

So I went down the Rhine, from the top, high in the Swiss mountains, to the bottom, where it empties into the North Sea at Rotterdam. My one regret is that I could not walk the route as I had done with Hannibal; the Rhine is three times the length of the Carthaginian expedition - getting on for a thousand miles. So I used, as well as my feet, almost every form of transport the human race has ever devised: large boats and small boats, trains and buses and cars, ferries and aerial cableways, a rubber raft and a helicopter, everything (including a bicycle, which I could never learn to ride, and still can't) except a hot-air balloon and a hang-glider.

It began most inauspiciously, when, still high up in Switzerland, I was persuaded to go shooting the rapids. As the frail rubber raft was

Bewitched in Lorelei land

For Bernard Levin the trip down the Rhine which begins tonight on Channel 4 was a welcome chance to return to a river that has always entranced him

hurled from side to side, and the jagged rocks flashed by my terrified head while the white water (no whiter than my knuckles) poured over me, I had just enough breath and sanity to resent the fact that in rapid-shooting it is the passengers, not the crew, who do the work, paddling for their lives.

After that, a day on manoeuvres with the Swiss Army felt remarkably peaceful, but it made me revise rather sharply the image of a nation defined by *fondues*, Alps and the cuckoo-clock. The citizen army of Switzerland is backed by an extraordinary readiness to meet any threat from any quarter: the entire country is a minefield, a booby-trap and an air-raid shelter, and I concluded my day among the quills of the Swiss porcupine with a visit to a large, busy, crowded hospital. And what is so special about a hospital? Only that, beneath it, there is another complete hospital, fully equipped, ready, waiting for the emergency, and entirely empty.

Then I met the first of three happy men, who, in their different ways, filled me so full with such vicarious contentment that I had no room left even for envy. Christian Patt, who lives in a tiny Swiss village called Malix, used to be a ski-instructor, but an accident ended that career. He was in his forties; how was he going to live? The answer turned out to be one that is given to only a few mortals: he discovered that he had genius in his hands.

Christian Patt makes musical instruments; every family of them except the brass. Strings, woodwind, percussion; organs and harpsichords; pipes, lutes, lyres, harps; even hurdy-gurdies; every item in his magical museum of music he made with his own hands, and every one of them he can play. Some he designs himself; some he creates from ancient prints; some follow traditional forms; his workshop downstairs was as wonderful an Aladdin's Cave as the drawing-room, with its racks of tools and its array of half-finished instruments.

I wandered in and out among these treasures, but Mr Patt had another surprise for me: he put me into his car, with his wife, on the way, they picked up another couple; deep in the woods there was a tiny church, St Peter Missail. I was ushered in; there were perhaps a score of people there. The Patts and their two friends vanished, and a few minutes later returned, garbed in lovely, authentic costumes of the 16th century. They sat down and played a concert of pure, early music, on a variety of instruments, every one of them made by Christian Patt. We might have been at the Court of the Medici.

From Basle, where there was a huge exhibition commemorating the 450th anniversary of the death of Erasmus (they let me into the

glass case made up as a replica of his study, and I peered over his shoulder to see what he was writing), I went to Mulhouse to see a car-museum. Since I know nothing of cars, and have no interest in them, I went braced against disappointment, but I was instantly converted by the wonderful array of veterans with names even I knew - Ferrari, Maserati, Hispano-Suiza, Rolls-Royce (every era from the beginning to yesterday), Panhard and Bugatti. I sat in the lushly-upholstered interior of the Bugatti Royale and murmured down the speaking-tube.

At Strasbourg, a glance at the absurdity of the European Parliament was followed by a closer look at the goose-stuffing (they are not nailed to the floor through a foot). But that was followed by my second happy man, Myriam Bourret, master of the Rhine-barge *Fleurie*, with whom I spent a day moving majestically down-river, with a cargo of corn and tobacco, at an unwavering 14 mph. The *Fleurie*, which can carry a thousand tons, is the Bourret family's only home, and he and his wife and four children all live aboard when school's out. Myriam will take any cargo (cargoes are auctioned daily in Strasbourg), and he prides himself on cleaning the hold in a day, even if he has just carried coal or cement and is now loading grain.

Myriam and Roseline Bourret and their son, who is 17 and part of the crew, love the changing seasons along the banks of their river, as they love the changing cargoes; when we had to go through a lock, they exhibited the kind of patience (for there is no way of hurrying a lock) that only the wise have achieved. Their music is the unceasing vibration of the engines, their painting the scenery they pass, their literature the meticulous charts that the *Fleurie* is steered by; and so deep in their life is the water on which they sail that when I asked Mr. Bourret what they did for a holiday

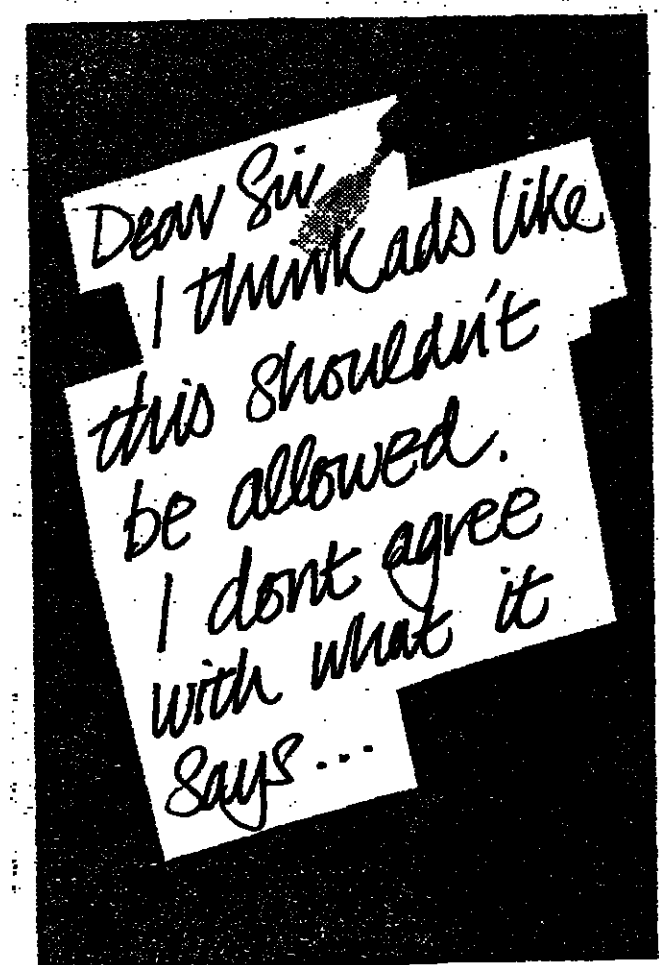
and he said "Nous cherchons le soleil" he felt obliged to confess that even in the heat of the sun he keeps water in view, when there is nothing but dry land in every direction. "Je suis perdu".

At Worms I shivered at the thought of Luther; at Mainz I saw where printing began; at Bonn I sat at Beethoven's piano. But in Heidelberg, on the Philosopher's Walk, I met a philosopher. We found ourselves in step, and since he had about as much English as I have German, we managed a conversation. Below us, across the river, was a medieval building, its proportions breathing an instinctive harmony. But how had the effect been achieved? He asked if I was a musician; no, I replied, but I am an amateur of music. Very well, then, harmony is something that encompasses far more than music; it is at the basis of all man's understanding, he said, and I pricked up my ears at his Pythagorean exposition. We talked of architecture, and he explained that Heidelberg had escaped serious damage during the war; then we both wondered why the instinct for harmony and proportion are so attenuated today. I told him about the houses in Bath, built in the 18th century as the cheapest form of artisan housing, which now change hands for hundreds of thousands of pounds. And the houses built today, he asked the surrounding air, would they be worth a fortune in two centuries' time? I didn't answer the question, or need to.

Three happy men of the Rhine; now for a very unhappy one, at any rate to judge by his looks, whom I could not find it in my heart to pity. The Bregenz Festival, with its famous floating stage (it floats on the tiny stretch of Lake Constance that belongs to Austria), was doing a new production of *The Magic Flute*, and the then newly elected President of Austria was making his first public appearance.

"There's no art," said Shakespeare, "to find the mind's construction in the face." True; but the truth wavered, and almost crumbled, in my hands when, from a distance of not more than two feet, I looked into the face of Kurt Waldheim - furtive, restless, calculating, shifty and haunted.

No; a man may not be accused, let alone convicted, because of his face. Moreover, and despite Waldheim's manifold lies, I know of no solid evidence that he did evil things during the war, though he must have known that others were doing them around him. If, possessed of no more knowledge of Dr Waldheim than has so far come to light, I were to sit on a jury before which he was being arraigned, I would vote "Not Guilty". But I would be happier if the trial were taking place in a jurisdiction that allows a verdict of "Not Proven". But *The Magic Flute*



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Playwright for all seasons: page 20

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THE TIMES COOK

More effect than effort

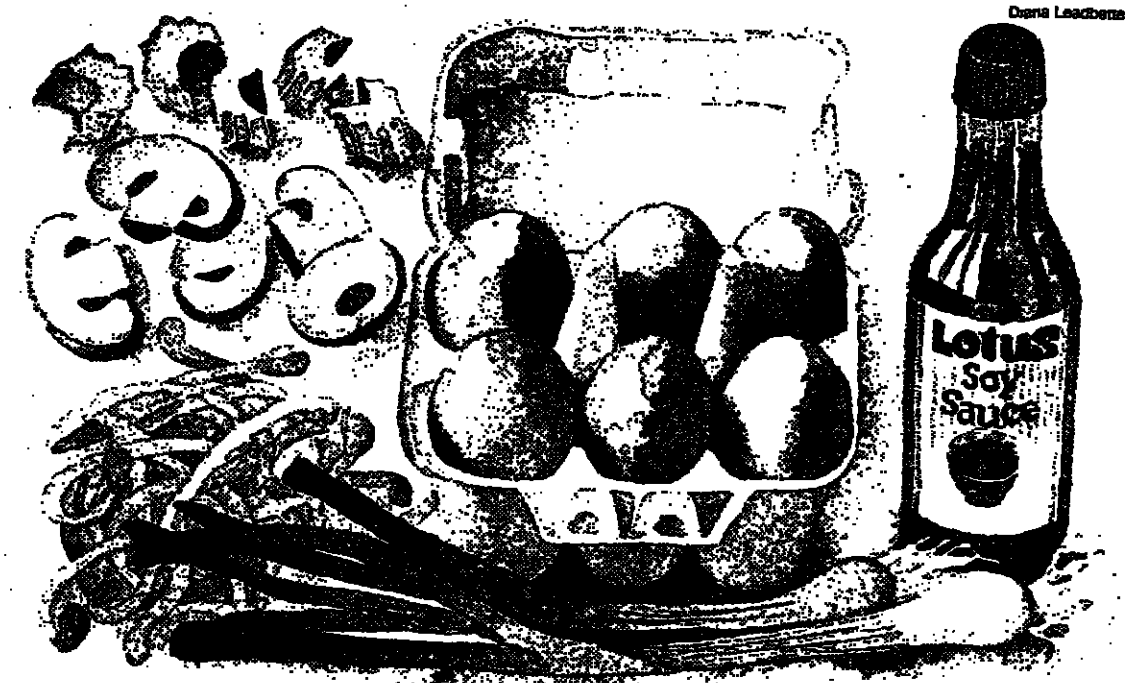
Frances Bissell has equal opportunity recipes for minimum fuss entertaining

A Liverpool gentleman has asked me to give some recipes for men who like to cook. As a former equal opportunity officer, that one rather took me aback. I am not at all sure I should be drawing such distinctions. Do men who like to cook, cook differently from women who like to cook? Since I received Mr Clevely's letter, I have been making mental notes.

There is the "minimalist school". A friend borrowed a bed for the night and arriving very late refused my offer of food, saying he would put something together if he felt hungry. Some time later, violent sounds of metal on metal drew me into the kitchen where he was, just in his underpants, stabbing a tin of smoked oysters with my best kitchen knife in one hand and a bottle of champagne in the other.

There is the "quartermaster school", whose members are brilliant at orchestrating the whole production, getting the minions to peel spuds or sliced sprouts while they get on with the glamorous bits. And there is the "maestro school" of one or two specialities, usually omelettes or salad dressing, and you had better make sure you don't touch their precious pan, or use that pestle and mortar for anything else.

I think in the end, the distinction is between those who are "habitués" of the kitchen and those who are not. "Habitués" men and women alike, are prepared to take on all kitchen and cooking tasks, glan-



Diana Leadbetter

orous and tedious. Those who only cook occasionally are perhaps impatient, wanting immediate effect and satisfaction. So not for rice or frozen, but rather egg dishes and grills, something that can be cooked in front of guests, something stylish like a grilled kebab, which you can even flame as you bring it to table.

This cucumber soup is rich and satisfying. Its originator is Laurent Boileau, a young chef at L'Amandier, an inexpensive French bistro in London's Camden Town.

Cucumber soup
Serves 4
1 cucumber
1 small onion
1/2 pint/300ml chicken stock

1 bay leaf
1 tsp roughly chopped parsley
1/2 pint/300ml full cream milk
1/2 pint/200ml single or double cream
salt, pepper

Peel the cucumber, cut in half length ways and remove the seeds. Roughly chop. Peel and thinly slice the onion and cook them gently in a non-stick saucepan with a little of the chicken stock. When they are soft, add the cucumber pieces, the rest of the stock, bay leaf and parsley. Cook for 10 to 12 minutes. Put in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth. If serving chilled, allow the mixture to cool, stir in the milk and cream and then chill until required. Season to taste

just before serving. If serving hot, simply add the milk to the mixture, stir in the cream, bring to the boil and season to taste.

Here is a dish for breakfast, lunch or supper.

Scrambled eggs with vegetables
Serves 4
1 tsp olive oil
2-3oz/50-75g celery
1 carrot
12 spring onions
3oz/75g mushrooms
6oz/175g beansprouts
6 eggs
soy sauce

Heat the oil. Peel and trim the vegetables. Slice the celery on the

oblique, shred the carrot, cut the spring onions into diagonal pieces and slice the mushrooms. Toss in the oil - celery first, then the carrots a minute or two later, then the onions, mushrooms and bean sprouts. Beat the eggs with a teaspoon of soy sauce and pour over the vegetables. Turn with a spatula until just beginning to set. Serve immediately, with a little more soy sauce if liked.

The following dish would be even further improved by an overnight marinade in the olive oil mixture.

Lamb and kidney kebabs
Serves 4
1 1/2lb/550g lean boneless lamb
fillet
4 lamb kidneys
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 tsp good red wine
1 tsp clear honey
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
1 tsp finely chopped parsley or chives

Trim the lamb of all fat and sinews, and cut into 1 inch/3cm cubes. Remove any fat from the kidneys, cut them in half horizontally, open them out and cut out the core with kitchen scissors. Thread the cubes of lamb and the kidney halves alternately on to 4 long metal skewers. Mix the next six ingredients together, and paint on to the meat with a pastry brush. It is a good idea to put the kebabs to one side for 10 minutes or so to absorb some of the flavours. Heat the grill and when hot, grill the kebabs to the degree of "doneness" you prefer, and serve immediately. Good with rice, pitta bread and green salad.

You can scarcely do better than fresh fruit for afters. The last time my husband Tom cooked dinner, he cut a melon in half, scooped out the seeds and filled the hollow with crème de cassis. I recommend it.

DRINK

Provençal tastes

It is a warm, balmy afternoon as we rattle up the dusty drive to the Domaine de Trévallon at St Rémy-de-Provence, due south of Avignon.

Two months ago I had never heard of Domaine de Trévallon, but their superb '84 vintage was on show at Arthur Rackham's summer tasting. A month later a wine trade friend mentioned that this wine was voted one of the top red French wines of the difficult 1984 vintage (Bordeaux and Burgundy included) by the American wine guru Robert Parker.

Eloi Durbach, Picasso's godson, ex-architect and now winemaker at Domaine de Trévallon, is there to greet us, along with various dogs, children and friends plus his lively wife Floriane and mother Jacqueline who, I deduce, must have bought the estate originally, for it is her name on the label. Clearly there has been something of a celebration but Durbach drags himself away and we stamp up the hard, steep slopes that are fragrant with pine, rosemary and thyme to look at the vines.

Trévallon consists of 16 of these small, difficult-to-work vineyards - hence by Durbach from *haute rock* - on the slopes of Les Alpilles, a small mountain range whose craggy features protect the estate's vines from the mistral.

Durbach has had no formal winemaking training and he is dismissive of oenologists' tal-

ents: "It is the quality of the grapes that make the wine." Down in the cellars we are joined by two Frenchmen, obviously new to the tasting game. Every sample is swallowed and accompanied by loud Gallic gurgling. The pair confess that today's lunch was in honour of their recently completed commission: putting a decent roof over the Durbach family's heads. We agree that anyone who puts his cellar before his house must be producing something special.

The Durbachs do. We taste the amazing 1985 vintage, whose rich, intense, chunky yet velvety palate is a delicious combination of cassis and black pepper spice with a hint, too, of that thyme and rosemary covered hillside (Yapp Brothers, The Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire £6.25).

On to the Parker-approved '84, a glorious wine with a deep purple-black colour and a very drinkable rich, spicy, cinnamon and thyme-like taste (Yapp Brothers £5.75, Arthur Rackham's £6.15).

The following day with some wine friends Trévallon '85 is compared with five other top Provençal reds and even one Bordeaux offering. It stood head and shoulders above the competition. A traditional Provençal red Trévallon is not, but to give Bordeaux a run for its money is quite something.

Jane MacQuitty

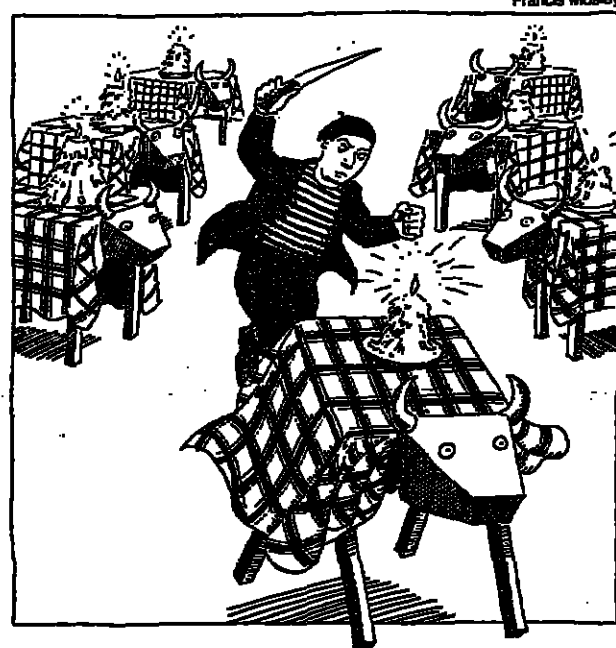
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EATING OUT

The bistro is back

An old format is returning in a new guise, writes Jonathan Meades



Frances Mosley

You thought the bistro years were over? You thought that the senseless destruction of herds of gingham in order to turn their check coats into table-cloths had ceased? You believed that the great gutting-wax mine was exhausted? You reckoned - you hoped - that all the bibulous, characterful patrons had been stripped of their matelot jerseys and boiled down to make one super-bibulous, extra-characterful TV entertainer called Keith Floyd? You were right, just about.

The bogus bistro was replaced as a fashion item by the bogus brasserie. Yet, as fashion items are wont to do, it is creeping back, albeit in a much improved, rather less bogus guise. The St Quentin, more than anywhere else in London, owns a kinship with the higher Parisian bistrot. This is largely but not merely because of its animation, noise, swiftness and generally pepped air.

There is, too, the matter of its menu, which seems to be heading back toward the classics of bistro cooking. There is a marked simplicity to certain dishes, and a fairly loud hint of rusticity. Red mullet grilled and served hot

with a bath of olive oil, a little lemon juice and a little coriander was first rate: absolutely fresh fish, a fine and perfumed oil immaculately judged cooking. A fruitier olive oil was discernible in the sabayon which half a dozen oysters were warmed in. This of course was hardly typical bistro food but it was good. A "cervelas" of scallops was neither. It looked like a boudin blanc that had died of obesity and it tasted of a piscine morgue. It was almost unbelievable that it could have come from the same kitchen as the mullet, none of whose virtues it possessed; its lemon butter sauce splashed with a red wine reduction was unexceptionable and fuel to those who believe in the ancient saw that the French have these sauces to mask poor ingredients. A salmon-trout tartar had the faint soapiness which often mars raw and marinated preparations of this fish; its sour cream sauce was delicious.

The sweets here are impressive. I'll go further, the "mille feuille" (it is no such thing) of oranges and shockingly bitter chocolate is one of the most delicious desserts in London. It is by no means complicated,

it's simply layers of loz orange coated with chocolate and served with a slightly sweeter chocolate sauce. It is made with care and restraint. Another sweet was equally simple and nearly as good: prunes soaked in armagnac accompanied by honey ice cream. This is luxury farmhouse gear and a reminder that you can't really beat basics, provided they're not too basic and they're prepared with flair and diligence.

The place looks *soigné* and chic: high class art deco repro. The tables are too small and too close to each other. The staff are indefatigable. The bill: £66 for two, including a decent Broutilly.

Le Muscadet is decoratively less ambitious than St Quentin: I think that's a tactful way of putting it. There's a brown tongue and groove dado, whitewashed brickwork, a brown ceiling, a shop window with net curtains. There are also Thelwell ashtrays - this is an authentically French touch, the reassuring lapse of taste that suggests the joint is *echt*. The service is also genuinely

French; that is, it's pretty bloody minded until you start speaking to the beasts in their own language whereupon they turn into princes.

The cooking is considered, unflashy, proper bistro grub with none of the peaks and troughs of St Quentin. Boudin noir, the proper Norman item with onion mixed in with the blood and no lumps of fat or pieces of meal or grain, is served with an apple purée: fried apples are actually better and if apple purée must be served it should be less tart than this one. Also Dijon mustard should be served, not something that comes from Norwich. Fromage de tête is done as a rilette - like mush rather than as pieces of cheek, muzzie, tongue in a stiff jelly - but it's sound and would have been sounder still had it not come straight from the fridge.

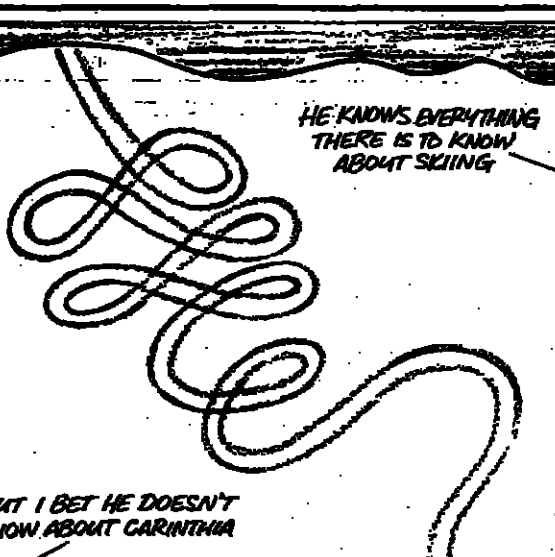
Copiously portioned and faultless main courses were sweetbreads with a madeira sauce that hit the right note of sweetness and pink calves kidneys with a light mustard sauce. These are worth the journey and so are the cheeses from Olivier of Boulogne, a supplier whose ubiquitous wares are often served too young. Here they are dead right, in fine nick. The "wine of the month", thus announced on the blackboard which lists the daily menu, was a perky "little" Burgundy from the Coteaux de St Bris; it was a bargain at £9.60. Two will pay £20.

St Quentin, 243 Brompton Rd, SW3 (01-583 8005, 581 5131) noon-3pm and 7pm-midnight every day.
Le Muscadet, 25 Paddington St, W1 (01-935 2883) 12.30-2.30pm and 7.30-10.45pm Mon to Fri, 7.30-10pm Sat. Closed Sat lunch, Sun.

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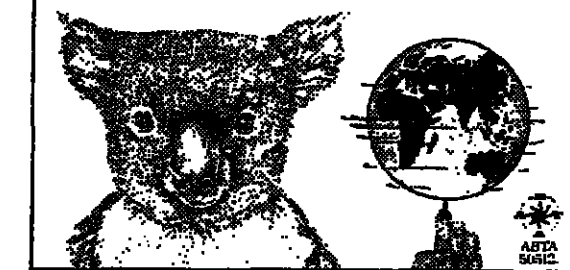
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IN THE GARDEN

Put down roots now



Growth does not cease with the onset of autumn, even when it is ushered in by such violent gales. Even after the leaves have fallen, roots continue to grow. Soil loses heat gradually, and at the moment it is more welcoming than it will be for many months.

If you have already singled out what you want, it is a good idea to plant now on a day that is not too wet or windy. Do not go too hastily into action. All container plants have a shock when they are transplanted and if it is too great, all the advantages of autumn planting are lost.

This is where thorough preparation makes all the difference. Dig over as large an area as possible so your planting hole does not act as a drainage ditch for the surrounding ground (if other planting makes this impossible, dig as large a hole as you can). Refill the hole with a mixture of gravel (for drainage), leafmould or peat, topsoil and two handfuls of bonemeal, which is phosphorous rich. Remember the rhyme: nitrogen for shoots, phosphates for roots, potash for fruits and flowers.

The main objective is to encourage the roots to grow out from container peat, and make their way into the surrounding soil, so make sure

Despite the gales, this is still a good time for some careful planting, writes

Francesca Greenoak

that the environment immediately surrounding the ball of peat and root is especially inviting. Always water the plant before removing it from its container and, even more important, make sure that it does not go thirsty afterwards.

With cool autumn temperatures, the plant is less likely to lose water through excessive transpiration through the leaves, but even a few days without rain can damage a newly planted specimen. It is even possible to lose a plant through dehydration in wet weather if it is planted in the shelter of a wall or hedge. Generally speaking, the larger the plant the more care and after-care it requires.

There are some plants which it is not wise to buy now. Defer planting eucalyptus, camellias, choisya, garrya, hebes and fuchsia. Likewise, if you have strong-rooted cuttings of passion flower or scented white jasmine, keep them in pots until next spring. Herbaceous plants are still

being sold in containers, but I would prefer to leave these until next year except where it is possible to give very tender care over the next few weeks.

When planting fruit, forest and ornamental trees and roses, I would decidedly recommend waiting just a little longer in order to buy them bare rooted. Nurseries are beginning to take up plants now and should be selling them in about two weeks' time. Bare-rooted plants are much cheaper and given well-prepared planting conditions will do as well, or better, than container plants.

Trees and standard roses should be planted exactly to the soil mark on the stem or trunk: roses in general do better for being planted slightly deeper with the crown just below the soil. Soak them in water before planting.

Many people, who may intend to live in a place for only a few years, want an instant garden of mature or semi-mature plants, but it is worth knowing that young trees and shrubs usually grow more strongly than bigger specimens. If you are likely to stay only a few years, choose a few eye-catching mature plants and several young fast-growing ones which will give you pleasure within a season or two.

STORM TIPS

- Using sharp secateurs or a saw, make a clean cut where branches have been torn off trees. Do not paint the wound, it stands a better chance of healing itself.
- Make a splint with stout 4ft bamboo to save kale, brussels sprouts and broccoli plants.
- Don't put off the replacement of broken panes in greenhouses and cold frames. Sudden frosts may strike at any time.
- Young trees which are leaning or blown right over stand a good chance of re-establishing themselves if restored to the vertical and secured with guy ropes or two stakes at 45 degrees.
- Make sure the soil is firm around the base of recently planted trees and shrubs.
- Tie in new growth on climbers to prevent them being thrashed about in the wind.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Remove fallen leaves from ponds before they start to rot.
- Too late now to sow radishes outside without protection, but continue to sow varieties such as Saxa or Robina under cloches or in the greenhouse.
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THE ARTS

Whiter shade of Powell

Joseph Chamberlain, as Enoch Powell recalled, used to take his hat off to the mirror, clearly in love with what he saw reflected there.

"Politicians," said Mr Powell "should avoid mirrors."

It was advice confidentially given. Whatever his faults, Enoch Powell could never be accused of worrying about his image. But watching him retrace his own eccentric path in *Enoch: A Life in Politics* (Channel 4 last night), one wondered how he really saw himself. What lies beneath that protective skin of teasing paradox and plunging candour, and does he know himself?

This totally compelling programme was not so much a television biography as a political obituary in which Mr Powell revealed more of himself than we have seen before.

The several personalities of this deeply complicated man were enticed into the light by the skilful probing of his interviewer, Nick Ross, who paraded before us the scholar, the orator, the parliamentarian, the little Englander, the stoic, the prophet, the zealot, and the kamikaze.

TELEVISION

Every time Nick Ross came knocking, a different Enoch answered the door. Pressed to explain how a devout Tory could ever have advised people to vote Labour, he chose to enlighten by paradox: "There is no contradiction — many Labour members are good Tories".

The man who thinks that Europe is unworthy of us, that the Northern Irish are British and that West Indians and Asians regardless of birthplace are not, is also the man who thinks that the argument for a nuclear deterrent is intellectually dishonest and that the Americans are almost certainly funding the IRA.

The zealot surfaced botched when Ross, quite properly, pushed him on immigration and that notorious "Rivers of Blood" speech.

Mr Powell regretted the turn of phrase but held fast to his original prophesy. Indeed, he was bleaker than before. "We are threatened with civil war." The tone was familiar; it was the sound of a brilliant politician destroying his career almost 20 years ago.

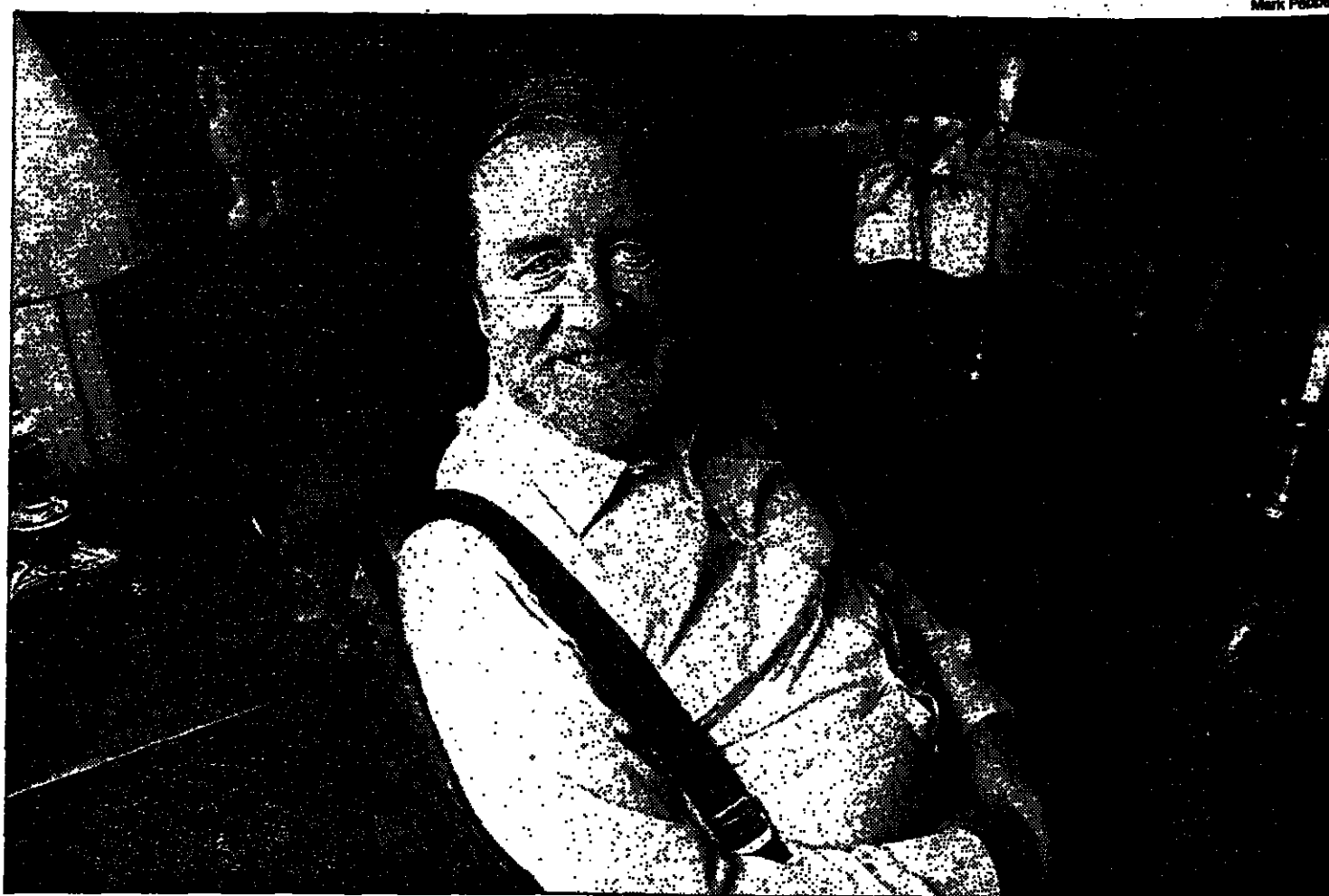
Mrs Thatcher did not get away unscathed. She might have discovered monetarism, something Mr Powell had been preaching 30 years ago, but "I sometimes wonder if she has ever really understood it."

Michael Dean

Countryman, a trilogy of short comedies by Carlo Goldoni in a new version by Mike Alfreds, opens in the Olivier Theatre on December 12 (with previews from December 5). The plays are separately called *Country Fever*, *Country Hazards* and *Country Harvest*.

That man for all reasons

Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons* opens in the West End on Monday with Charlton Heston. Chris Peachment spoke to Bolt about the play



Reflections on life: Robert Bolt at home in Hammersmith — "I would not go to the block for my beliefs and desert my family. Who would?"

The epigraph to *A Man for All Seasons* is from Samuel Johnson, and reads: "He was the person of the greatest virtue these islands ever produced." Active goodness is always hard to portray dramatically, for evil is more truly spiritual in its attractions than good, but if Robert Bolt's play has done nothing else, it has left us with a rare and abiding portrait of a virtuous man who is also a vertebrate.

Of course, it does much else besides. "It sums up my attitude to the law," Bolt says. "What nobody seems to remember is that Sir Thomas More was the leading lawyer of his day. He was at the top of this enormous structure. But it didn't save him." In the final scene of the play, More faces Thomas Cromwell on trial for treason and defeats him at every point of law. But Cromwell then introduces a perjured witness. "Yes, Cromwell says, 'OK, you have proved you are the smarter lawyer, so now I just take the law away from under you, and where are you?'" Bolt says. "And of course all that More can do is admit defeat; but then he can finally say what he really thinks. That is the whole point of the play."

Not that Bolt is simply touting the law-as-an-ass line. An earlier crux in the play occurs when a puritan reformer claims that he would cut down every law in the land to get at the Devil. "Oh?" replies More. "And when the last law was down — and the Devil turned round on you — where would you hide then, the laws all being flat? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of the law for my own sake."

This may be well-made, stirring rhetoric of the sort which heavy-weight actors used to like shaking by the scruff of the neck, but it also engages with very large issues in a public arena, an activity of which most playwrights, then and now,

fight shy. It is our luck that we have a playwright naive and bold enough to ask large questions about conscience and place them on a national scale.

This matter of just how much the private conscience owes to the state

was also the subject of Bolt's playwriting for *The Mission*, and figures to some extent in many of his scripts. "There are these people like Lord Hailsham," Bolt says, "who say, 'This is the law, and it is not up to you to break the law.'"

This is silly. Because along comes someone like Hitler and overturns the law to his own ends. Then it is a law that we must transgress. Do we succumb? No. That is not the right thing to do. It is up to you to break the law. The problem is finding

exactly that point at which it becomes OK to do so."

Hitler, law-breaking, the Devil, Thomas More: the Bolt firmament is streaming with very large ideas indeed. It is perhaps worth reminding people of the stroke which he

suffered some years ago, when in the Pacific researching for the David Lean version of *Mutiny on the Bounty* (which was never made). This has affected his speech, so that it is now slow, and each word is groped for and pronounced with deliberation and great effort.

Every so often a word will defeat him, although a short barrack-room phrase of annoyance at the defeat seems to come easily enough. The effect is not at all discomforting: quite the reverse. The thought comes through direct, and it lends gravity to what he says. If all speech were as hard-won as his, the world would be worth listening to.

While *A Man for All Seasons* is undoubtedly a well-made play, it employs a loose Brechtian technique in the figure of the Common Man, who narrates and also takes various roles throughout, including that of More's servant and his final axe-man. It is a caustic role, dedicated to selfish survival, and the antithesis to More's stand of conscience. "Oh, I love the Common Man," Bolt says. "He is speaking for all of us. I would not go to the block for my beliefs and desert my family. Who would? Only Thomas More."

As a matter of fact, *The Times* recorded that on September 12, 1961, Robert Bolt was sentenced to imprisonment, along with Bertrand Russell, for refusing to keep the peace by inciting public demonstration at a forthcoming CND meeting. The prophylactic jurisdiction was a law passed in 1361 to prevent armed soldiers, recently returned from the French wars, causing disturbances. "Not much common sense from the law there."

It seems he was sprung from jail by the good offices of Sam Spiegel, who needed more work done on his *Lawrence of Arabia* script. Bolt was later overheard to say that he wished Spiegel had left him in the slammer, but that is another story.

Fall into grace

DANCE

Rosas
Riverside

Dance Umbrella has started its five-week London season, and the second programme, given at Riverside Studios on Thursday, is as rewarding as the opening programme, at The Place on Wednesday, was disastrous. See Ross, but I cannot recommend the so-called Flying Starts, which seemed more of a bellyflopp.

The performers of the Belgian group, Rosas, are four young women, and their director, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, is in a different class. In her new show, *Bartok/Hanekeningen*, she develops the emotional implications and content of her choreography. As always, the patterns are simple and based, in the minimalist style, on repetition with variation, but the movement is richly varied from one section to another.

Michael Dean

Countryman, a trilogy of short comedies by Carlo Goldoni in a new version by Mike Alfreds, opens in the Olivier Theatre on December 12 (with previews from December 5). The plays are separately called *Country Fever*, *Country Hazards* and *Country Harvest*.

Mockery of the maestro

John Manceri finds much to criticise in a new biography of Leonard Bernstein

BOOK

There is no Wagnerian music in *A Quiet Place*.

Peyser reports (accurately) that when all the authors of *West Side Story* got together in 1985 no one could agree on anything regarding the creation of that show. At that moment Peyser should have realized the folly of anecdotal history, taken all her cassettes and floppy disks, put them in her microwave and started afresh.

She proceeds to tell us the story of *Romeo and Juliet* ("Shakespeare's plot centres on two star-crossed lovers...") and then tells us that the show received excellent notices from all the major New York critics except Walter Kerr. "Kerr," she writes, "is Roman Catholic and heterosexual." And here, gentle reader, I threw the book across the room.



Bernstein: buy the records

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Master in the mood

CONCERTS

LSO/
Shostakovich
Festival Hall

If anybody enjoys birthday celebrations it is Mstislav Rostropovich, who makes them the occasion for hard work. After six weeks of concerts in America to mark his 60th birthday last March, he has begun another eight here with the London Symphony Orchestra. Six of these feature him as solo cellist in 15 assorted works, the two others as conductor.

His opening programme brought Maxim Shostakovich to begin with a dash of musical bubble. Leonard Bernstein's overture, *Slavna* (the cellist's familiar name and also the Russian word for "glory"), is rhythmic and rousing.

Rostropovich then appeared with his glorious Stradivari cello, to remind us of his special friendship with Benjamin Britten, enduringly commemorated in the latter's *Symphony for Cello and Orchestra* of 1963. The cellist still finds new beauties in a work that expects a listener to come more than halfway, but which then offers rewards in abundance.

As a contrast afterwards, Rostropovich relaxed into the lyricism of Dvorak's Concerto with a gentleness as well as poetic fervour that is something quite special in so familiar a classic. Some phrases emerged almost as if new-minted, and the performance of soloist, conductor and orchestra alike held in affection the warm spirit of the work in a way that promises a concert series of distinction.

Noël Goodwin

Poor service

Room Service
Haymarket,
Leicester

Fifty years ago this showbiz comedy was a hit on Broadway. RKO bought the rights and the Marx Brothers turned it into a flop. Revived in New York last year, it now surfaces over here at a theatre justly proud of its many successful rediscoveries. This production will not join their number.

The play belongs to the genre of screwball farce that pits a group of wise-cracking humanoids against a second group who may be simple folk, bewildered and much abused, but at least they are members of the human race.

A bankrupt theatrical producer, his quick-witted director and a goonish assistant are holed up in a Times Square hotel, struggling to mount a show in the theatre next door before the irate hotel manager turfs them out on to the sidewalk. The hapless young author (Clive Arrindell) has to fake illness and then suicide, the hotel doctor is gagged and locked in the bathroom, waiters are cheated, debt-collectors sent to asylums, but even the worst of this might be enjoyable if all three humanoids were likeable.

Christopher Ryan, who looks like the definition of a gag, short and snappy, has some quality cracks to deliver and does so with a neat throwaway technique, partly compensating for the total failure of the authors (John Murray and Allen Boretz) to make him at any time credible as a director.

Gavin Richards is seriously miscast as the producer, whom the script requires to be a self-satisfied, exploitative liar but not that he should be

A saint in every stranger

THEATRE

Entertaining
Strangers
Cottesloe

David Edgar takes his text from Hebrews, 13: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." As he develops it, the exhortation applies as much to alien ideas and sympathies as to unfamiliar faces.

It is a dramatized argument for overcoming the narrow loyalties of family and locality; and hence one reason for its successful transfer from its own community to the National Theatre stage.

Entertaining Strangers was Ann Jellicoe's final and most elaborate production for the Colway Theatre Trust in 1985. She tells the story of its origins and of the factual research into every one of its 188 characters in her book *Community Plays* (Methuen £6.95). In the slimmed-down version that now reaches the Cottesloe, what takes your breath away is its power to combine local history with a cohesive viewpoint such as is normally available only to writers who bend facts to their convenience.

Spanning some 40 years in Victorian Dorset, the piece is built around the antagonism between Sarah Eldridge (founder of famed-line of Dorchester brewers) and the Rev Henry Moule, evangelical fundamentalist and inventor of the Moule Patent Earth Closet (and model for Angel



Vision of death: Tina Pigott-Smith holds on to Judi Dench

Clare's father in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*: two characters each totally convinced of their own rectitude.

One of Miss Jellicoe's rules is that "community plays are consensus plays", and Mr Edgar seems to be flagrantly in breach of this during a first act of head-on collision between a hard-headed commercial entrepreneur with the full force of local opinion behind her, and a high-principled stranger, who informs Mrs Eldridge that she is performing the work of the devil.

In Peter Hall's promenade production these scenes take on the quality of a missionary drama, with besmoked celebrants rolling up to drink Jesus's health at the sacrament, and a mummers' St George striding out to challenge the vicar like a Congolese witch doctor. The central theme is present even here, in the alignment of the traditional races (with band and sideshows) and the even greater festival when the townfolk greet the age of steam. Moule, needless to say, remains a shunned outsider.

Irving Wardle

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Geraldine Fitzgerald
Peter Guinness
Jeremy Irons
Hugh Quarshie
Imogen Stubbs
David Troughton

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PENGUIN BOOKS

THE WEEK AHEAD



FILM

BEWITCHING: Susan Sarandon plays one of the characters in *The Witches of Eastwick* (18). There are three of them, all divorced women in New England, restlessly searching for Mr Right. He arrives in the form of Jack Nicholson, a wealthy, satanic stranger. George Miller, renowned for his *Mad Max* films, directs this adaptation of John Updike's clever novel about the battle of the sexes. The other witches are Cher and Michelle Pfeiffer. Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 6279), from Friday.



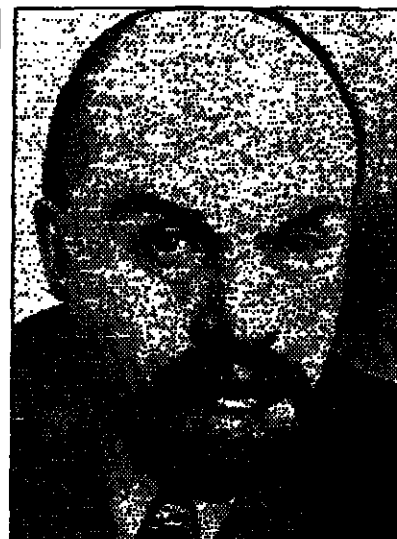
GALLERIES

LOWRY ON TOUR: L.S. Lowry, seen above as a fresh-faced 37-year-old in a rare self-portrait, is celebrated in his centenary year in a major new exhibition. There are nearly 400 items featured, including his earliest known drawing in 1902 and works completed well after 1965, despite his assertion that he had by then given up painting, because he "no longer had the energy for it". Salford Art Gallery, Peel Park, Salford (061 736 2649), daily, until November 29, then on tour.



OPERA

BACK FOR BERT: Beverly Morgan, the American soprano, makes her second visit to Britain for Scottish Opera's new production of *Lulu*. John Cox, who directed her in *Intermezzo* for her debut here last year, lured her back for a role which marks an important stage in the career of a specialist in contemporary repertoire. This is the first British performance outside London for the completed three-act version of Berg's opera. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Opens Wednesday, 7.15pm.



BOOKS

FROM RUSSIA: Lenin has been a life-long obsession of the columnist and journalist Alan Brien. In *Lenin: The Novel Brien* recreates the steely old Bolshevik's life through a fictional diary that Lenin is imagined to have kept from the age of 15 to his death. Everything fits in with the known facts and interminable writings and speeches of his life. Lenin emerges as a human, eccentric, rather endearing revolutionary, with almost an English sense of humour. Published on Monday by Secker & Warburg, £11.95.



THEATRE

BY ANY OTHER NAME: Katherine Schlesinger, most recently in London as Irina in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, plays Rose Pemberton in Graham Greene's *The Living Room*, the second production by the new Royalty Theatre Company. Bryan Forbes directs a cast including Peter Blythe, as a married man with whom Rose develops a relationship, Judy Campbell, Dulcie Gray and Jennie Linden. The play has not been seen in the West End since 1953. Royalty (01-831 0660). Previews Tuesday and Wednesday. Opens Thursday.



DANCE

CARMEN OHANA: Noriko Ohana dances the title part in Scottish Ballet's new production of *Carmen*. Small, dark and capable of intense drama, she should be well-suited. This new version of the ballet which Peter Darrell created, to Bizet's music adapted by Guy Hamilton, for the 1986 Edinburgh Festival, opens Scottish Ballet's first season in a new Studio Theatre at the company's headquarters at West Princes Street, Glasgow (041 331 2931). Gala opening Wednesday; then Thursday, Friday and Saturday until October 31.

THEATRE LONDON

AMERICAN BUFFALO: Vincent Pickering, Philip O'Brien, directed by Tim Vestig, in David Mamet's study of small-time villainy. Young Vic Studio (01-928 8363) Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

A COLLIER'S FRIDAY NIGHT: John Dove directs the D.H. Lawrence play, which opens the new season here. Greenwich Theatre (01-855 7765) Previews Wed, Thurs. Opens Fri.

LETITIA AND LOVAGE: Maggie Smith, Margaret Tyzack, Richard Pearson, in a new comedy by Peter Shaffer, directed by Michael Blakemore. An encounter between two ladies, one "fantastic", the other "horrible". Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-437 3667/741 9899). Previews from Wed. Opens Oct 27.

NO MORE A-ROVING: World premiere of a "lost" play, written in 1946 by John Whiting, a light comedy. The Orange Tree, New Road, Richmond, Surrey (01-940 3633). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

ROMEO AND JULIET: David Thacker directs Sarah-Jane Fenton, Richard Huw, Rudolph Walker, Annette Badland, John Elmes, in a new production which will tour Britain and overseas. Young Vic (01-928 8363). From Fri. Opens Oct 26.

A VISION OF LOVE REVEALED IN SLEEP: Neil Bartlett's solo performance is dedicated to the memory of late-Victorian figure Simon Solomon, whose sexual preferences led to a downfall similar to that of Oscar Wilde, his contemporary. Warehouse 9, Maguire Street, Butler's Wharf, London SE1 (Bookings: 01-930 3647). Opens Tues.

OUT OF TOWN

CHELTENHAM: Every Black Day: Commissioned piece by local writer Don Hale, on the life of black American thriller writer Chester Himes. Richardson Studio, Everyman (0242 572573). Opens Thurs.

FARNHAM: Way Out of Order: Nigel Baldwin's play, about a group of youngsters joining an overseas expedition, is a commission in collaboration with TVS. Redgrave (0252 716301). Opens Wed.

WATFORD: A Doll's House: Susan Penhaligon and Charlotte Cornwell, directed by Lou Stein in the Ipsen classic. Palace (0923 225671). From Thurs.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Figaro* reigns at Covent Garden: Bernard Haitink conducts the new Johannes Schaefer production with Claudio Desderi and Marie McLaughlin. Tues and Thurs at 7pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1069).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Continue with their three new productions: tonight, Wed and Sat Oct 24, Philip Prowse's staging of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* with Valerie Masterson and Sergei Leiferkus; on Mon and Thurs, Sondheimer's *Pacific Overtures*; and on Tues and Fri, the new *Werther*, seen through a Victorian glass, starkly, with Ann Murray and Arthur Davies. All performances begin at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3181).

GLYNDEBOURNE TOURING OPERA: Still on home ground with John Shirley-Quirk and Alison Hagley in *Così fan tutte* on Tues and Thurs (7pm) and the Sondheim-designed *Ravel double-bill* on Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm. Nigel Osborne's new *The Electrification of the Soviet Union* plays on Sat Oct 24 at 5pm. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111).

OPERA NORTH: In Hull with their new Peter Gill production of *The Marriage of Figaro* on Tues and Thurs, the new Ian Judge *Macbeth* with Josephine Barstow on Wed and Sat Oct 24; and their outstanding second half of Berlioz's *Eric*,

FILMS

THE LAST OF ENGLAND (18): Derek Jarman's latest film, an apocalyptic reflection on the state of the nation, with interesting use of the Jarman family's home movies and endless images of urban decay. Cannon Princes Charles (01-437 8181) from Fri.

EAT THE RICH (18): Raunchy black comedy about London life, from Peter Richardson, originator of *The Comic Strip*. With Ronald Allen, Fiona Richmond, Noshir Powell. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), from Fri.

WHO'S THAT GIRL (15): Derivative, silly comedy, ensues as teenage audience by the presence of Madonna, cast as a petty thief just released from prison. Co-starring Griffin Dunne; directed by James Foley. Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Fri.

GALLERIES

IN ANOTHER WORLD: Paintings from around the world by so-called "primitive" artists, some of which are startlingly sophisticated in expression. Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield (0742 734781). From today.

BRITANNIA WORKS: 30 artists open their studios to the public for three days. Space Studios, Dace Road, London, E3 (01-985 0664). From today.

THE CHINESE EXPORT ART GALLERY: A newly refurbished gallery containing items of porcelain, lacquer, silk and carving of the type exported from China between 1550 and 1900. Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 (01-588 6371). From Wed.

PIPER'S ENGLAND: Paintings and prints by John Piper. CCA Galleries, London W1 (01-499 6701). From Wed.

NICOLA COUNSELL: NICHOLAS JOLLY and GERARD TUNNEY: Works by three young figurative painters. The Sokom Gallery, London W1 (01-499 4701). From Thurs.

ROSTROPOVICH/LSO: Rostropovich continues celebrating his 60th birthday by conducting the LSO in Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 5* and Prokofiev's *Symphony No 3*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

FROM LYON: To mark the 50th anniversary of Ravel's death Serge Baudo conducts *L'Orchestre National de Lyon* in his *Rapsodie espagnole*, *La valse*, *Bolero* and *Piano Concerto for Left Hand* with Jean-Philippe Collard. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Mon, 7.45pm.

PAUL BERKOWITZ: Paul Berkowitz programmes Schubert's *Piano Sonata D 958*, preceded by Mozart's *Adagio K 540* and Schumann's *Kreisleriana*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London, W1 (01-936 2141). Tues, 7.30pm.

ASHKENAZY/RPO: Besides soloing in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 3*, Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the RPO in two Richard Strauss symphonic poems, *Don Juan* and *Also sprach Zarathustra*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-628 3191). Thurs, 7.30pm.

ALL ROSTROPOVICH: Rostropovich solos, in a *Violoncello Concerto* and in Richard Strauss's *Don Quixote* with the LSO under Michael Tilson Thomas, then Krzysztof Penderecki takes over to conduct his own *Cello Concerto No 2*.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, Fri, 7.30pm.



Essa-Pekka Salonen (above) conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in a series of three concerts in which works by the avant-garde Hungarian composer, György Ligeti, are given with other major 20th century pieces. The first programme comprises Ligeti's *Passions*, the Schoenberg *Piano Concerto* with Miska Uchida as soloist and the *Symphony No 2* by Shostakovich. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank (01-928 3191). Wednesday, 7.30pm.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: *Swan Lake* continues with performances tonight, Mon, Wed, Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: A new tour of *The Nutcracker* in Peter Schaufuss's production starts Wed. Alhambra, Bradford (0274 752000), until Oct 24.

DANCE UMBRELLA: This week's highlight is a French duo, *Diverses* and *Moment*, at the Almeida Theatre (01-359 4404), Fri and Oct 24. Michael Popper's *Direct Current*, Mon to Wed, Rosas, from Belgium, tonight at Riverside (01-748 3354) and the American Stephen Petronio company there Thurs to Oct 24.

AMERICAN COMPANY: Urban Bush Women, Leicester Poly (0533 431011 ext 239) Thurs.

TELEVISION

FOOTSTEPS: The story of Giovanni Belzoni, a circus strongman who blasted his way into the tombs of ancient Egypt, launches a nine-part series on pioneering archaeologists. BBC2, Tues, 9.30-10.20pm.

BOOKMARK: The theatrical genius of Anton Chekhov illuminated through

JAZZ

CHARLIE ROUSE: Finally receiving the attention he deserves, Thelonious Monk's tenorist appears with Stan Tracey's group. Bull's Head, London SW13 (01-876 5241) tonight; 100 Club, London W1 (01-636 0833).

SUN: Four Bars Inn, Cardiff (0222 374 952), Mon; Bull's Head, Tues and Wed; UCS Theatre, London NW3 (01-435 2215), Thurs; Colchester Arts Centre (0206 577301), Fri.

CAROL KIDD: Highly-rated Scottish singer comes south of the border. Royal Hotel, Hayfield (0683 42721), Mon; Corner House, Newcastle (091 255 9602), Tues; Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal (0539 25183), Wed; The Mechanics, Burnley (0282 3006), Fri.

JAZZ TRAIN II: Six of the best young British artists, including Mick Hutton, Julian Argüelles and vocalist Cleveland Wadsworth Bass, London N1 (01-729 2476), Thurs.

PHOTOGRAPHY

TIBET: A GREAT MOUNTAIN LAND: Rare opportunity to see pictures by Sir Charles Bell taken in Tibet in 1920-21. Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, South Park Road, Oxford (0865 270925). Until Feb 27.

JOHN DAVIES: A GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND: 60 black and white "Post Industrial Landscapes" by Davies. The Photographers' Gallery, 5 and 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-931 1772), Oct 23-Nov 28.

A LONG MEMORY: Thriller by Peter Simpkin with Dennis Waterman as a writer who ghosts the memoirs of an East End gangster. Radio 4, today, 7-8.30pm.

THE VISIT: Joss Ackland, Stan Phillips and Charles Kay in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's play about a wealthy woman who agrees to save her bankrupt town if the mayor-elect is put to death. Radio 4, tomorrow, 2.30-4pm.

DEATH DUTIES: Comedy by Frederick Bradburn with Maurice Denham as a man, approaching his 100th

WALKS

COURTYARDS OF OLD LONDON: meet today, St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.50.

SOUTH KENSINGTON: meet today, V & A Museum, 2.30pm, £2.75.

LONDON'S ROCK ROUTES - THE SWINGING SIXTIES: meet tomorrow, Leicester Square tube, 2.30pm, £2.75.

DICKENS'S LONDON: meet Monday, Museum of London, 2.30pm, £2.75.

DOCKLANDS AND THE THAMES: meet Wednesday, Tower Hill tube, 11.15am, £2.75.

MYSTERIES OF THE TEMPLE: meet Thursday, Temple tube, 11am, £2.50.

HIDDEN TREASURE OF HOLBORNE: meet Friday, Holborn tube, 2pm, £2.50.

RADIO

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FILMS ON TV

Simon Srebnik (above) was one of only two survivors out of 400,000 Jews in a Nazi death camp in Poland. He tells his story in *Srebnik*, Claude Lanzmann's acclaimed film of the Second World War Holocaust, which is having its first showing on British television. Running for nine hours, *Srebnik* is being shown on Channel 4 without commercial breaks. The first part is tomorrow, 8.15pm-12.45am; the second on Monday, 8.30pm-1.20am.

THE CAPTIVE CITY (1952): John Forsythe, in his pre-Dynasty days, as a crusading newspaper editor fighting small town corruption in Robert Wise's tense thriller. Channel 4, Tues, 2-3.45pm.

WHITE CORRIDORS (1951): James Donald, Google Withers lead a cast of British film stalwarts in a well-observed hospital drama,

ROCK

BAD NEWS/HEAD: The Young Ones comedy troupe in their *Spinal Tap* guise, supported by the rockers from Bristol. Tonight, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 505401); tomorrow, Winter Gardens, Margate (0843 292795); Mon, Less Cliff Hall, Folkestone (0303 54895); Wed, Leicester Polytechnic (0533 555576); Thurs, Loughborough University (0509 268171); Fri, Victoria Hall, Hanley (0782 228118).

BRYAN ADAMS: The mild man of rock with a hard-driving show built around the simple production values of the Sixties. Support is T'Pau. Tonight, Cornwall Coliseum, St Austell (07281 4444); Mon, Aylesbury, Bucks (0494 511111); Tues, Wembley Arena (01-902 1234).

TROUBLEFUNK: Go Go heavyweights from Washington DC, whose *Trouble Over There* album deserved a better showing in the charts. Thurs, Octagon, Sheffield (0742 763300); Fri, International 2, Manchester (061 224 5050).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE: 1987/88 season includes *Nuts* by Tom Topor, *Gypsy*, *Passion Play* and *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 1.15-1.30pm *News* 1.30-1.45pm *News* 1.45-2.00pm *News* 2.00-2.15pm *News* 2.15-2.30pm *News* 2.30-2.45pm *News* 2.45-3.00pm *News* 3.00-3.15pm *News* 3.15-3.30pm *News* 3.30-3.45pm *News* 3.45-4.00pm *News* 4.00-4.15pm *News* 4.15-4.30pm *News* 4.30-4.45pm *News* 4.45-5.00pm *News* 5.00-5.15pm *News* 5.15-5.30pm *News* 5.30-5.45pm *News* 5.45-6.00pm *News* 6.00-6.15pm *News* 6.15-6.30pm *News* 6.30-6.45pm *News* 6.45-7.00pm *News* 7.00-7.15pm *News* 7.15-7.30pm *News* 7.30-7.45pm *News* 7.45-8.00pm *News* 8.00-8.15pm *News* 8.15-8.30pm *News* 8.30-8.45pm *News* 8.45-9.00pm *News* 9.00-9.15pm *News* 9.15-9.30pm *News* 9.30-9.45pm *News* 9.45-10.00pm *News* 10.00-10.15pm *News* 10.15-10.30pm *News* 10.30-10.45pm *News* 10.45-11.00pm *News* 11.00-11.15pm *News* 11.15-11.30pm *News* 11.30-11.45pm *News* 11.45-12.00pm *News* 12.00-12.15pm *News* 12.15-12.30pm *News* 12.30-12.45pm *News* 12.45-1.00am *News* 1.00-1.15am *News* 1.15-1.30am *News* 1.30-1.45am *News* 1.45-2.00am *News* 2.00-2.15am *News* 2.15-2.30am *News* 2.30-2.45am *News* 2.45-3.00am *News* 3.00-3.15am *News* 3.15-3.30am *News* 3.30-3.45am *News* 3.45-4.00am *News* 4.00-4.15am *News* 4.15-4.30am *News* 4.30-4.45am *News* 4.45-5.00am *News* 5.00-5.15am *News* 5.15-5.30am *News* 5.30-5.45am *News* 5.45-6.00am *News* 6.00-6.15am *News* 6.15-6.30am *News* 6.30-6.45am *News* 6.45-7.00am *News* 7.00-7.15am *News* 7.15-7.30am *News* 7.30-7.45am *News* 7.45-8.00am *News* 8.00-8.15am *News* 8.15-8.30am *News* 8.30-8.45am *News* 8.45-9.00am *News* 9.00-9.15am *News* 9.15-9.30am *News* 9.30-9.45am *News* 9.45-10.00am *News* 10.00-10.15am *News* 10.15-10.30am *News* 10.30-10.45am *News* 10.45-11.00am *News* 11.00-11.15am *News* 11.15-11.30am *News* 11.30-11.45am *News* 11.45-12.00am *News* 12.00-12.15am *News* 12.15-12.30am *News* 12.30-12.45am *News* 12.45-1.00am *News* 1.00-1.15am *News* 1.15-1.30am *News* 1.30-1.45am *News* 1.45-2.00am *News* 2.00-2.15am *News* 2.15-2.30am *News* 2.30-2.45am *News* 2.45-3.00am *News* 3.00-3.15am *News* 3.15-3.30am *News* 3.30-3.45am *News* 3.45-4.00am *News* 4.00-4.15am *News* 4.15-4.30am *News* 4.30-4.45am *News* 4.45-5.00am *News* 5.00-5.15am *News* 5.15-5.30am *News* 5.30-5.45am *News* 5.45-6.00am *News* 6.00-6.15am *News* 6.15-6.30am *News* 6.30-6.45am *News* 6.45-7.00am *News* 7.00-7.15am *News* 7.15-7.30am *News* 7.30-7.45am *News* 7.45-8.00am *News* 8.00-8.15am *News* 8.15-8.30am *News* 8.30-8.45am *News* 8.45-9.00am *News* 9.00-9.15am *News* 9.15-9.30am *News* 9.30-9.45am *News* 9.45-10.00am *News* 10.00-10.15am *News* 10.15-10.30am *News* 10.30-10.45am *News* 10.45-11.00am *News* 11.00-11.15am *News* 11.15-11.30am *News* 11.30-11.45am *News* 11.45-12.00am *News* 12.00-12.15am *News* 12.15-12.30am *News* 12.30-12.45am *News* 12.45-1.00am *News* 1.00-1.15am *News* 1.15-1.30am *News* 1.30-1.45am *News* 1.45-2.00am *News* 2.00-2.15am *News* 2.15-2.30am *News* 2.30-2.45am *News* 2.45-3.00am *News* 3.00-3.15am *News* 3.15-3.30am *News* 3.30-3.45am *News* 3.45-4.00am *News* 4.00-4.15am *News* 4.15-4.30am *News* 4.30-4.45am *News* 4.45-5.00am *News* 5.00-5.15am *News* 5.15-5.30am *News* 5.30-5.45am *News* 5.45-6.00am *News* 6.00-6.15am *News* 6.15-6.30am *News* 6.30-6.45am *News* 6.45-7.00am *News* 7.00-7.15am *News* 7.15-7.30am *News* 7.30-7.45am *News* 7.45-8.00am *News* 8.00-8.15am *News* 8.15-8.30am *News* 8.30-8.45am *News* 8.45-9.00am *News* 9.00-9.15am *News* 9.15-9.30am *News* 9.30-9.45am *News* 9.45-10.00am *News* 10.00-10.15am *News* 10.15-10.30am *News* 10.30-10.45am *News* 10.45-11.00am *News* 11.00-11.15am *News* 11.15-11.30am *News* 11.30-11.45am *News* 11.45-12.00am *News* 12.00-12.15am *News* 12.15-12.30am *News* 12.30-12.45am *News* 12.45-1.00am *News* 1.00-1.15am *News* 1.15-1.30am *News* 1.30-1.45am *News* 1.45-2.00am *News* 2.00-2.15am *News* 2.15-2.30am *News* 2.30-2.45am *News* 2.45-3.00am *News* 3.00-3.15am *News* 3.15-3.30am *News* 3.30-3.45am *News* 3.45-4.00am *News* 4.00-4.15am *News* 4.15-4.30am *News* 4.30-4.45am *News* 4.45-5.00am *News* 5.00-5.15am *News* 5.15-5.30am *News* 5.30-5.45am *News* 5.45-6.00am *News* 6.00-6.15am *News* 6.15-6.30am *News* 6.30-6.45am *News* 6.45-7.00am *News* 7.00-7.15am *News* 7.15-7.30am *News* 7.30-7.45am *News* 7.45-8.00am *News* 8.00-8.15am *News* 8.15-8.30am *News* 8.30-8.45am *News* 8.45-9.00am *News* 9.00

SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SUNDAY

Exhibiting a precocious passion for creepy crawlies, young Gerry spends idyllic days on the island of Corfu, where the sun never stops shining and a boring old history lesson can be diverted to a discussion of the elephants Hannibal used to cross the Alps. *My Family and Other Animals* (BBC1, 6.25pm) has been adapted by Charles Wood from the book by Gerald Durrell (the grown-up version of Gerry) and for peak-time family viewing, it is an inspired choice. Young Gerry, accidentally filling his mum's beds with beetles, and mums can vent their exasperation on the archetypal mischief-maker whose heart is always in the

CHOICE

right place. The series may not have much dramatic shape, but what with children, pretty locations, places that dance to the "Blue Danube" waltz, dashing of humour and the shedding of the odd tear at the demise of a tortoise, it hardly needs one. Hannah Gordon is the misadventurous, gallantly coping with chaos. Brian Blessed plays himself as a friendly Greek taxi driver who once lived in Chicago and has the accent to prove it, and Darren Redmayne, a newcomer to television, is excellent as Gerry.

Peter Waymark

Darren Redmayne, Brian Blessed, and Hannah Gordon: *My Family and Other Animals*: BBC1, 6.25pm

Reflecting on fame: pop singer Morrissey appears in the South Bank Show on ITV at 10.30pm

CHOICE

● If the whole point of becoming a rock star used to be to get away from home, then the Smiths are the return ticket: defiantly Mancunian and drawing their inspiration from local and in the context of pop music, subversive observations. They combine hyper-sensitive lyrics with calculated shock value, and their disreputable tunes appeal to the spiritual successors of those obsessive bed-sit listeners of Leonard Cohen. But the Smiths are, above all, British and their articulateness and cultural references (British cinema of the 1960s, animal slaughter, the Moors Murders)

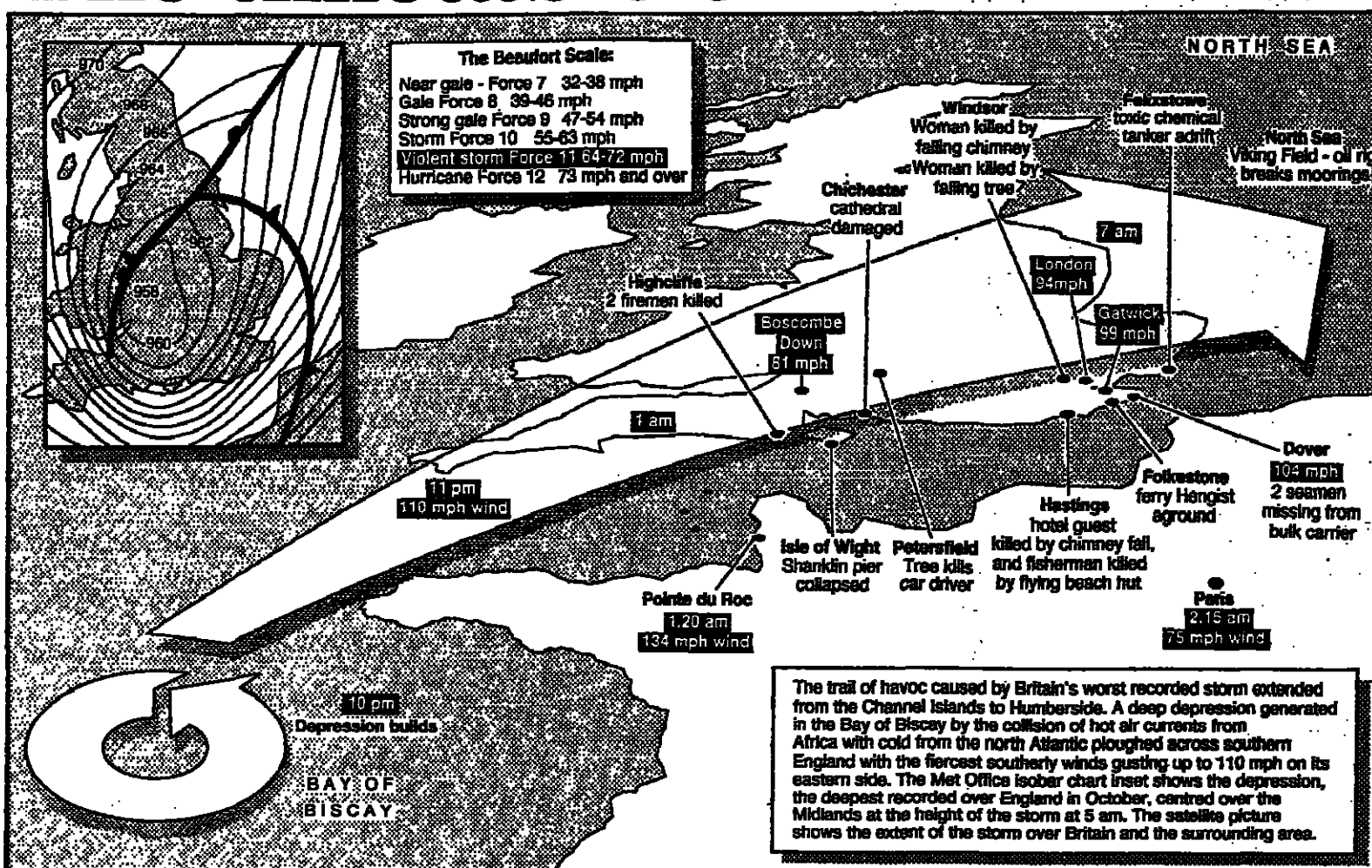
and their summaries of post-teenage angst make them obvious candidates for *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.30pm). The Smiths are a successful post-punk mixture of the iconoclastic and the traditional, the latter demonstrated by singer-songwriter Morrissey's worship of British female singers of the 1960s. But, for all their opposition to prevailing orthodoxy, the Smiths failed to escape, splitting up, and Morrissey, despite a professed reticence, has the necessary impact of (and hair cut for) a solo rock star — the only obvious descendant to date of the late Billy Fury.

Chris Petit

BBC1

- 8.00 *Robbers* 8.25 *Saturday Night* 9.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 9.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 9.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.40 *The* *Chucklebust* 10.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.40 *The* *Chucklebust* 11.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.40 *The* *Chucklebust* 12.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.40 *The* *Chucklebust* 1.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.40 *The* *Chucklebust* 2.50 *The* *Chucklebust* 3.00 *The* *Chucklebust* 3.10 *The* *Chucklebust* 3.20 *The* *Chucklebust* 3.30 *The* *Chucklebust* 3.40 *The* 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The timetable of havoc in Britain's worst storm



The most violent storm ever recorded in Britain was almost completely unpredicted in public weather forecasts, the Meteorological Office admitted yesterday. Had it struck in daylight, with many people out of doors, the consequences could have been disastrous (Robin Young writes).

The main evening forecast at 9.30 pm on Thursday predicted 30 mph winds, with gusts up to 50 mph. The midnight forecast on Radio 4 did warn of a risk of serious gales, but it was an hour before the Met Office alerted fire brigades and police forces to the danger of extreme winds.

A Meteorological Office spokesman said yesterday: "We had forecast the risk of very high winds at the end of the week as long ago as last Sunday, but we did fail to fill in the detail. The storm blew up over the Bay of Biscay and came in over the sea from an area where we have very sparse weather information. We failed to realize the rapid way in which the depression was deepening."

By contrast, the French Meteorological Department had warned on Tuesday of winds up to 90 mph on Thursday night. Using information provided by the Reading-based European Centre for

Medium Range Weather Forecasting, which was also supplied to the UK Met Office, the French scientists asked radio stations to put out warnings on Tuesday. M. Georges Dhommer, a scientist at the department, said that he was convinced the warnings had helped France to escape the storm without fatalities, although winds of 134 mph were recorded in Normandy.

The cause of the storm was a collision between a belt of very warm humid air drawn up from the west of Africa and cold Arctic air drawn down over the Atlantic. The resultant depression, the deepest recorded in Britain, deepened rapidly, passing west of the Breton peninsula and the Channel Islands before coming on to England in the small hours of the morning.

The strongest winds were the southerly and south-westerly blowing at the centre of the storm as it travelled from Devon to Humberside. Gusts of more than 100 mph per hour were recorded in the Isle of Wight and along the South Coast, and of 110 mph in Gwent. In London the wind gusted up to 94 mph, the highest since records began in 1940. The fiercest gust at Heathrow reached 93 mph, 30 mph faster than any

thing previously recorded there. The failure by weather forecasting authorities to give adequate warnings of the storm could make them liable for damage claims, a leading disaster claims lawyer said.

Mr Roger Pamome, who advised families in the Zeebrugge disaster and the Manchester air crash, said that such claims would be made. However, a claim might be possible if people who were injured, or whose relatives had died, were able to show that the weather forecasters had known of the impending storm and that they had failed to give adequate warnings.

Mr Pamome said that whether there was a duty of care or not would have to be tested in the courts. There had been an American case in which a pilot telephoned a commercial weather forecaster to find out the weather conditions. He was misadvised, flew off and crashed. A subsequent claim against the forecaster was successful.

He said that legal aid would be extremely difficult to obtain to bring such a claim, however. Applicants would have to show that the weather forecasters knew the storm was coming and were reckless in not warning against

them. As for damage or loss of property, people would have to examine the small print of their insurance policies. If there were no exclusion clauses for what had happened, or "acts of God" then the British insurance industry would be likely to pay up promptly.

Britain's worst gale was the great Channel storm of November 26 and 27, 1703, which ravaged southern England and was estimated to have killed about 8,000 people. Thousands of tons of shipping were lost and the first Eddystone lighthouse was destroyed.

Government demand Met Office report as 18 die

Continued from page 1

occasions after lengthy and dangerous operations.

At Harwich, Tamil refugees who have had an unhappy time since fleeing to Britain suffered more discomfort as the ship on which they have been confined, the Earl William, left its moorings and drifted in the storm on to a sandbank.

The storms brought life on dry land to a halt as hundreds of thousands of people heeded police and government warnings to stay at home unless their journeys were absolutely necessary.

The City of London had an eerie calm during the morning rush-hour, with the sound of absent private cars and public transport. The Stock Exchange stopped trading as computers and telephone lines went down. Only a few cases continued in the High Court as judges, barristers, juries and witnesses all failed to arrive.

Similar problems, and fears about the safety of its famous dome, brought the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey to a halt. The Tower of London was closed to visitors for the first full day since the

war because of danger from damaged trees.

The Tower remained unharmed, but other parts of Britain's heritage suffered. Trees and buildings were badly damaged in Kent Gardens and experts said it would take 200 years to replace some trees. Six of the seven oaks, which gave the Kent town its name, were felled.

At Brighton, a three-ton stone minaret blew down from the roof of the Royal Pavilion and crashed through the ornate Music Room. Zoos and safari parks also suffered widespread damage.

As Britain began to count the cost of the storms, the Home Secretary said it was too early to decide whether the Government would provide financial aid for clean-up operations.

Mr Hurd told the press: "Until we know the scale of the damage and the expenditure incurred and where the responsibilities lie, it would be foolish of me to be more precise. It is a subject that will have to be tackled."

At yesterday's meeting, attended by ministers from the Treasury and the departments of trade and industry, agriculture, transport, energy, the

defence, the environment, employment and health, Mr Hurd, who is co-ordinating the Government's response, heard reports on the impact of the gales on their areas of responsibility.

Ministers ruled out declaring a state of emergency as demanded by the Opposition. Mr Hurd said such a step would pay dividends only if the law was getting in the way of emergency action to deal with the damage, and that was not the case this time.

Mr Hurd added: "The problems are ones which, for the most part, it is for the local services to deal with, working together. I pay tribute to the work of all the local authorities and emergency services concerned who have worked unstintingly — with support from the armed services — throughout the night and day to return things to normal."

"The general picture is one of a savage blow across a wide part of this country, a storm which is now blowing away, of local authorities and emergency services coping resiliently and well."

"Provided the weather continues to moderate, we should continue to make good progress back to normality."

The blitz spirit shines through

Continued from page 1

That same echo was everywhere. They gathered around Reception, and spoke of their fears for Jenkins in Accounts "... lives in this copse, bang on top of a hill ... poor devil ..." and told their "bomb-stories" but this time only of branches through the outhouse roof, and ditches where neighbours' Volvos had drowned.

In Trafalgar Square, Nelson stood unwavering. But the Mall was a shock: Mother Nature doing to the trees what we had done to hers — for the defoliation, the sprawling desolation, was uncannily like walking through a rain forest.

The chain saw surgery was beginning in every stretch of London greenery. The great planes have been torn off the trees, leaving a forest of jagged, gnarled stumps and gaping at bare vistas for a long time to come.

Reassurance at the Palace. The Guards paraded still, but even the dying gusts must have been a torment, playing hard upon the barracks. Her Majesty will want to walk her grounds when she returns from Vancouver; the security fences carry garlands of uprooted bushes and flowers. Hyde Park evoked different

windows had cracked, spewing glass 280ft to the floor beneath the dome.

Down the Strand a tourist bus crept by. "On your left, the site of ..." yammered the guide, oblivious to the fact that all the Japanese and Germans on board were gaping to the right where a stone eagle, dislodged from its perch, was making its first landing on earth for perhaps 200 years.

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resonances. The house in Princes Gate, once entered so dramatically by the SAS at the Iranian Embassy siege, appeared to have been violated again: this time by builders' planks wind-slung through windows like grenades.

In Rotten Row, where the horses of the Life Guards hideously asprawl in an indecent memory, girls were urging ponies called Prince and Flash to jump the trunks of fallen trees that had earlier stood in solid row. But standards were being maintained. Within the barracks, a young officer was supervising a faggy party picking up every single leaf.

The flattened marquee was re-erected. But the delicate, elegant racing skulls on the racks will never float again — at least not unless a craftsman's hands can replace the bows, sheered off by a knife-like blow of a falling tree.

At the smarter end of Oxford Street a window or two had gone, and a crane was lowering very ordinary-looking steel plates from an undistinguished frontage, a mundane operation that nevertheless attracted the sort of audience that does not usually stand stupefied in this street until it is time to turn on

the Christmas lights. At the latter end, the expected sign of enterprise: a shop with its hand-written board advertising "sale of wind-damaged stock."

Whitehall? Unmarked. Downing Street? Here, oddly, no leaf had dared shed itself. Perhaps it is the shelter given by the Foreign Office. Or the breakfast-TV report: "Mrs Thatcher is flying back to sort things out."

In the Big Bang City most of the Great Wind horror seemed hidden. It was there in the eyes of the market men staring at under-manned screens no longer lighting up with offers to buy a million, some, desperate, were later to wander down to trading floors and begin doing deals with other men, using that crude tool of their fathers, the human voice.

Sharpest memory of all though, of a day when Londoners were so shaken by the terrors of the dark night that many even spoke to strangers, the morning that the man with a gas kettle was king, was that of flags. Everywhere, across the capital great rectangles of colour stood out, seeming to quiver with excitement: on the night of the Great Wind they, at least, were absolutely in their element.

Distribution plan for NI publications

Continued from page 1

and Wales. Existing wholesale distributors, who were given 90 days notice yesterday that their contracts will end, will be able to submit tenders.

Mr Bill O'Neill, managing director of News International's newspaper division, said last night: "We think it is necessary to rationalize distribution throughout the country. This new approach to wholesaling will hopefully lead to a more efficient and fairer way of delivering newspapers to the retailers and, in turn, to our readers."

An announcement of the changes, carried in *The Times* today, says: "This is just the first stage of a new distribution and wholesaling system which we expect to expand, including magazines, videotapes and other products."

WH Smith, the biggest wholesale distributor, with about 35 per cent of the newspaper market, welcomed the announcement. Mr Malcolm Field, group managing director, said it made sense that wholesalers responsible for distributing weekday publications should also take on Sunday publications.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,490

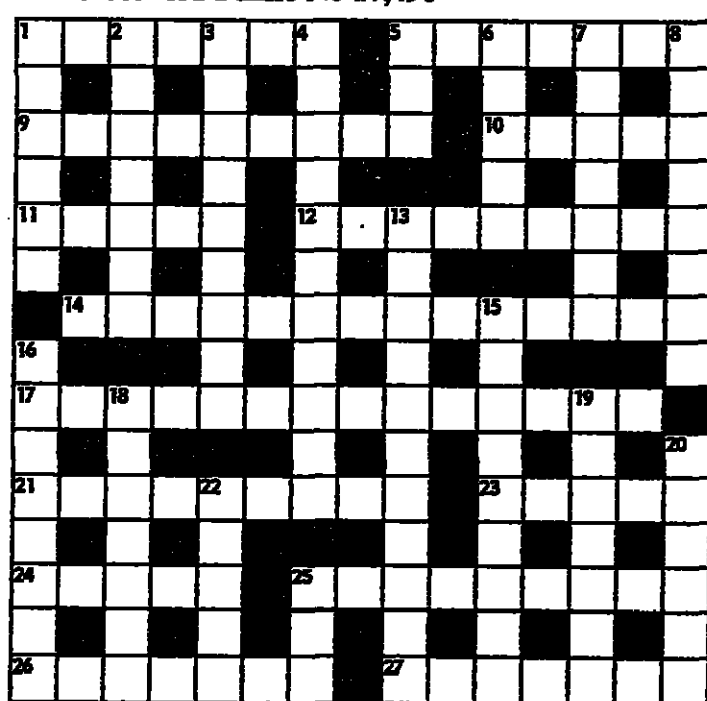
ACROSS

- Deputy state patroness of arts and trades (7).
- First purchase of someone on the rocks? (3-4).
- Candidate's declaration of some faint potential (9).
- Official inspection announced of light entertainment (5).
- Reversible blade (5).
- Attentive social worker after esteem (9).
- The Pines ski centre resort shows great attention to detail (14).
- A cause of ruin accepted internally — underwriter given wreck (9).
- Spanish chap with no head for card-game (5).
- The French hall and farewell (5).
- First sound from Octopius (9).
- Plain sort of schooner (7).
- Check on bookies' enclosure — lock needed (7).

DOWN

- Eliot's concomitant of desire in cruellest April (6).
- Showgirl twice turned down (7).
- Hand over article about extreme expressions of public opinion (9).
- Jack's drawing a piece of modern art (11).
- Some expectant women produce twins (3).
- Blunder and panic, not using head (5).
- Boat I've untied to get clear away (7).
- One of 5 *dn* reading notes? (8).
- Common curator in charge of course (11).
- It would be telling to switch such gains (3-6).
- Shell included in arms (8).
- A rain-cloud, silver-lined, falls (7).
- Payments grease the under-ground (7).
- Heavy body in women's boat-crowd (6).
- Dull old penny back? (5).
- Fade away from endless fast (3).

Couscous crossword, page 21



Solution to Puzzle No 17,489

ACROSS
 1. DEPUTY
 2. FIRST
 3. CANDIDATE
 4. OFFICIAL
 5. REVERSIBLE
 6. ATTENTIVE
 7. THE PINES
 8. A CAUSE
 9. SPANISH
 10. THE FRENCH
 11. FIRST
 12. PLAIN
 13. CHECK
 14. THE PINES
 15. A CAUSE

DOWN
 1. ELIOT
 2. SHOWGIRL
 3. HAND
 4. JACK
 5. SOME
 6. BLUNDER
 7. BOAT
 8. ONE
 9. COMMON
 10. IT
 11. SHELL
 12. A
 13. PAYMENTS
 14. HEAVY
 15. DULL

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr I. Alder, Carisbrook Close, Alresford, Hants; C. H. Card, Nelson Rd, Worthing, W Sussex; G. Harper, Coniston Ave, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol; M. A. Hogg, Ravelston Dykes Rd, Edinburgh; Mr T. J. Gadd, Wiganthorpe Hall, Tetterton, N Yorks.

Name _____
 Address _____

WEATHER

General situation: Low pressure to the north-east of the British Isles with a blustery airflow. A weak ridge of high pressure will cross some areas. A much less stormy day with showers, but some bright and dry weather. Later in the afternoon, cloud will spread from the south-west. Not as chilly. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Rather unsettled. Best of the dry weather in the south-east of Britain.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18	12	10	
Amsterdam	12	12	10	
Antwerp	12	12	10	
Athens	22	12	10	
Bahia	28	12	10	
Bombay	30	12	10	
Buenos Aires	20	12	10	
Calcutta	30	12	10	
Cairo	28	12	10	
Canton	28	12	10	
Cebu	28	12	10	
Colon	28	12	10	
Hankow	28	12	10	
Hong Kong	28	12	10	
Kobe	28	12	10	
London	12	12	10	
Lyons	12	12	10	
Manila	28	12	10	
Medan	28	12	10	
Paris	12	12	10	
Peking	28	12	10	
Rangoon	28	12	10	
San Francisco	12	12	10	
Shanghai	28	12	10	
Singapore	28	12	10	
Sourabaya	28	12	10	
Tientsin	28	12	10	
Yokohama	28	12	10	

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Cardiff	12	12	10	
Edinburgh	12	12	10	
Glasgow	12	12	10	
London	12	12	10	
Manchester	12	12	10	
Newcastle	12	12	10	
Nottingham	12	12	10	
Sheffield	12	12	10	
Sunderland	12	12	10	
Swansea	12	12	10	
Torquay	12	12	10	
Wrexham	12	12	10	

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	10.04	5.2	11.10
Avonmouth	10.11	5.2	11.17
Aberdeen	3.39	5.5	4.17
Cardiff	2.06	2.7	8.27
Cardiff	2.07	2.8	8.28
Dewhurst	2.21	4.0	2.28
Dover	8.03	5.1	8.54
Edinburgh	4.25	5.1	5.34
Glasgow	10.23	3.7	9.24
Harwich	6.14	2.9	9.23
London	1.01	3.5	4.01
Manchester	2.30	3.3	3.57
Manchester	4.26	6.3	3.22
11.00			
Liverpool	6.28	6.3	6.48
London	2.51	2.1	7.34
London	3.33	3.3	3.33
North Haver	3.18	4.6	3.47
Nottingham	2.18	3.5	3.57
Osney	3.25	2.9	3.55
Perth	1.17	4.0	1.42
Portsmouth	8.38	3.7	8.58
Portsmouth	8.06	4.7	8.40
Sheffield	2.13	3.5	3.57
Sheffield	2.26	6.7	3.32
Tees	12.13	4.2	1.18
Torquay	12.13	3.5	3.57
Up on Sea			

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1812.9 (-21.8)
FT-SE 100
2301.9 (-21.0)
Bargains
34797 (35468)
USM (Datastream)
228.06 (-0.87)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6645 (+0.0105)
W German mark
2.9969 (+0.0032)
Trade-weighted
73.5 (+0.2)

Rates rise
in US
and Japan

The upward move in world-wide interest rates continued yesterday, as the Bank of Japan acceded to a rise in money market interest rates.

In New York, Marine Midland Bank raised its prime rate from 9.25 per cent to 9.75 per cent following Chemical Bank's increase on Thursday.

The Bank of Japan allowed rates on commercial bills of up to three months' maturity to edge higher. The three-month rate rose to 3.94 per cent. The Bank normally permits increases in these rates in preparation for a discount rate rise. But the Governor, Mr Satoshi Sumita, has repeatedly denied that a discount rate rise is planned.

In Belgium, the National Bank raised its three-month Treasury certificate rate by half a point to 7.15 per cent.

Family stags

Barclays Bank will provide a nationwide service for the sale of BP shares through Barclays' retail stock-broking arm. Families will be able to reduce dealing costs by consolidating allotment letters up to a total of five.

Issue agreed

BankAmerica Corporation and Japanese financial institutions have signed agreements in Tokyo and London for a previously announced \$425 million (£255 million) capital securities issue. A total of 59 Japanese institutions will purchase the securities.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2333.06 (-22.09)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	26366.74 (-81.48)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3763.20 (-45.44)
Amsterdam	Gen	290.7 (+0.4)
Sydney	AO	2145.4 (-1.0)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1876.6 (-26.0)
Brussels	Generale	4222.5 (-326.9)
Paris	CAC	398.8 (-8.5)
Zurich	SKA Gen	629.5 (-2.6)
London	FT-A All-Share	1180.92 (-9.89)
	FT-100	1267.82 (-10.83)
	FT Gold Mines	436.3 (-1.5)
	FT Fixed Interest	91.50 (-0.17)
	FT Govt Secs	84.90 (-0.75)
Recent issues		Page 28
Closing prices		Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:	
Toothill	410p (+20p)
Scottish Met Prop	135p (+5 1/2p)
DAKS 'A'	538p (+15p)
Pittman	318p (+8p)
Securitor	390p (+10p)
Armstrong	205p (+5p)
Albion	238p (+7p)
Kyocera	350p (+10p)
Bejan	250p (+8p)
Neapend	88p (+3p)
Andie de Groot	58p (+2p)
Bolton Textile	73p (+3p)
Amberley	118p (+3p)

FALLS:	
Royal Insurance	535p (-39p)
Grig Shipping	770p (-30p)
Commercial Union	431p (-22p)
Boddington	188p (-7p)
G Overseas 'A'	415p (-20p)
Sherid & Simpson	875p (-25p)
Centors	445p (-15p)
Prices are as at 4pm	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/4-9 1/2%
Buying rate
US Prime Rate 9 1/4%
Federal Funds 7 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.02-7.01%
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.6645	£ \$1.6650
£ DM2.9969	£ DM1.8015
£ Sfr2.4778	£ Sfr2.4825
£ FF6.5575	£ FF6.5125
£ Yen236.60	£ Yen242.65
£ Index73.5	£ Index100.01
ECU 0.93216	SCR 0.78835

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$485.25
close \$485.00-485.50 (\$279.50-280.00)
New York
Comex \$486.80-487.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov.)	DM \$18.25bbl (\$18.75)
Denotes latest trading price	
* Denotes Thursday's close	
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PSBR down
to £35m

Buoyant revenues point
to big undershoot

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The public sector borrowing requirement was just £35 million last month, better than market expectations, and pointing firmly towards a large undershoot in the Chancellor's target for the present financial year.

The view is gaining strength in the financial markets that the PSBR for the financial year as a whole will be close to zero, or possibly in surplus for the first time for 20 years.

Treasury officials refused to be drawn yesterday on the prospects for a PSBR outcome well below the official £3.9 billion target. They said the Chancellor would give a new estimate for this year's PSBR in his Autumn Statement - no timing has been fixed for this, but November 10 is a favoured date.

The September PSBR of £35 million compared with £705 million in August and £2.19 billion in September last year. Average City expectations had been for a PSBR of more than £500 million last month.

In the April-September period, the first half of the financial year, the cumulative PSBR was just £1.4 billion, compared with £5.8 billion in the corresponding period of last year.

Excluding privatization proceeds, which so far this year have totalled £4 billion, the PSBR was £5.4 billion in the first six months, compared with £6.9 billion in the first half of the previous financial year.

Thus borrowing in the first half, after allowing for the different pattern of privatization receipts, was £1.5 billion lower than last year.

Mr Keith Steach, economist at James Capel, said: "Comment... 27

"These are good figures. They must raise the possibility of a balanced budget this year, or even a small surplus."

The main reason for the sharply lower PSBR in September, compared with a year ago, was the payment by the oil companies of petroleum revenue tax. In September last year, after world oil prices had crashed, the Treasury had to repay £1 billion of advanced PRT payments to the oil companies. This year, the Treasury received £900 million from the companies.

The turnaround of £1.9 billion, accounted for much of the improvement in the PSBR. But other revenues are also increasing strongly.

In the April-September period, Inland Revenue receipts were 12 per cent up on a year earlier, or 10.5 per cent excluding petroleum revenue tax. The Treasury's Budget forecast were for increases this year of 7.5 and 7 per cent respectively.

Customs and Excise receipts were also strong, reflecting the buoyancy of retail sales. In the first six months, they were 7.5 per cent up, compared with a Budget forecast of 6.5 per cent.

"Revenues are more buoyant even than we were expecting," said Mr Robert Thomas, director of bond research at Greenwell-Montagu. "We are still talking about a very, very low PSBR for the year."

There is little evidence of upward pressure on spending. Supply spending in the first six months, adjusted for special European Community payments last year, was just 4.5 per cent up on a year earlier.

Inflation boost for Reagan

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A moderate increase in inflation reported yesterday for September bolstered the Reagan Administration's aggressive campaign to calm international financial markets after two days of huge trading losses.

The figures did nothing to help Wall Street, and the Dow Jones industrial average, which was down more than 153 points in the previous two days, lost another 45 points to 2,310. Declines outnumbered advances 13 to one in active trading.

Credit markets, however, steadied after the government reported a rise of 0.3 per cent in wholesale prices last month - in line with expectations. The gain in the producer price index indicated inflation growing at an annual rate of 3.7 per cent.

The "October massacres" on Wall Street, marked by a 13.49 per cent decline in the industrial average this week alone, has unnerved markets and resulted in predictions of economic decline.

But US officials, in separate briefings, continued their efforts to convince investors that rising concern over interest rates, the dollar and the persistently high trade deficit will not lead to a steep, new recession.

One official confirmed that the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board were coordinating their efforts, in the form of public speeches and briefings, to persuade markets that inflation worries were exaggerated and that a viable dollar policy remained in place. "We do not want Wall Street's fears to become self-fulfilling prophecies," an official said.

The Louvre accord among the Group of Seven nations to manage exchange rates was not threatened by bilateral disputes, despite the statements of Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, a senior official said.

Mr Baker's criticism of West Germany's interest rate increase and his suggestion that the US might move to push the dollar lower raised strong doubts on Wall Street.

Analysts said yesterday that it was widely believed on Wall Street that the Federal Reserve Board would wait until next week to raise the discount rate again following the release of new GNP figures. But Mr Baker said on Thursday that the Fed did not want rates to move higher.

US trade officials yesterday attempted to paint a more encouraging picture of the big trade deficit which triggered Wednesday's record 95.46 drop on Wall Street.

The raw numbers, in volume terms, show a significant improvement in the deficit in response to a 40 per cent decline in the dollar. "Trade has finally begun to contribute to real economic growth and to jobs. The US is beginning to recapture markets," a senior official said.

But officials acknowledged that on the basis of the first eight months of the year, the US deficit is growing at another record level of \$170 billion. The new data has convinced Wall Street that economists have been consistently wrong.

Computerized City rues the winds of change

By Colin Narborough

An unusually quiet Stock Exchange was yesterday morning forced to suspend its screen-based share trading system, Seag, as power failures caused by gales stopped commuters getting to work and put much of the City out of action.

A Stock Exchange spokeswoman, keen to avoid renewed criticism of the electronics, said: "This is more a people problem."

The exchange's central computer worked normally throughout, as did its Topic display system.

The reinstated Seag could, however, only be "indicative", because SE rules call for participation of two thirds of the market-makers who had managed to keep going, led to the exchange reinstating its computerized quotations system at noon.

market-makers before firm quotes can be given. SE share indices were not calculated.

How much share trading was affected will not be known until next week. In the skeleton market, yesterday's trades did not have to be registered until the close on Monday. But the problems failed to drive anybody back on to the SE trading floor.

While Seag was in suspension, the Bank of England freed dealers in gilts from their obligation to make a market and dealing on foreign exchanges stayed at a minimal level. The Bank postponed sterling settlements until Monday.

The London Metal Exchange remained closed, with all positions due yesterday postponed for settlement on Monday. The London Futures and Options Exchange also remained closed for futures in coffee, cocoa, raw sugar and energy. Grain and feed futures markets were likewise shut.

But the irrepressible London International Financial Futures Exchange opened for business as usual.

Eurotunnel enters last month before £750m share issue

Selling the tunnel to the people

By Joe Joseph

With just one month to go before the launch of its £750 million share offering for a stake in the Channel tunnel, and with tunnelling due to begin within weeks, Eurotunnel has strengthened its management team by appointing Mr Graham Corbett as financial adviser to Mr Alastair Morton, co-chairman of the Anglo-French consortium.

The equity offering, which will be launched on November 16, marks the last and crucial stage of fund-raising for the twin-bore rail tunnel. Syndication of £5 billion of bank finance, raised to cover construction costs, is going well, according to Mr Morton, who says that £2 billion of the total has already been passed down by the arranging banks.

Mr Corbett - who has been living in Paris as senior partner for continental Europe of Peat Marwick Mitchell, the accountants - will help to shape Eurotunnel's financial division once the international funding programme is over and the project begins to focus more on the construction challenge ahead.

The £7 million advertising campaign to woo investors to the issue is set to gather pace in the coming weeks, with news of the travel-related perks that will sweeten the equity offering likely to be unveiled later this month.

Mr Morton is hardly an impartial judge, but he reckons the strong response so far from callers to Eurotunnel's share



Morton: crucial fund-raising to come

information office suggests that the offer could be as much as five times oversubscribed.

That is not, perhaps, dazzling compared with some of the Government's recent privatizations, but says much for Eurotunnel's progress, considering that the flotation's success looked precarious at best after the hash Eurotunnel made when it first passed the hat around institutional investors a year ago.

Probably the stiffest hurdle still facing the tunnellers is the anti-Eurotunnel campaign which is being prepared by Flexlink, the lobby group representing the cross-Channel ferry companies.

Mr Morton maintains that Eurotunnel's forecasts are conservative for cross-Channel traffic in the years following the opening of the tunnel in 1993, and that there will be more than enough business to keep both Eurotunnel and the ferry companies in business.

Mr Morton also feels that Flexlink's opposition to the idea of a tunnel is compromised by the fact that key figures in Flexlink itself entered a bid for the concession to build the fixed link.

Eurotunnel's belief that it will benefit not only from increased European travel but also from the changing taste of European travellers appears to be borne out by research showing that, for distances up to 300 miles, passengers prefer taking a train to travelling by plane.

Mr Morton feels that comments made earlier this week by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, that Britain's airports will be unable to accommodate increased traffic unless night curfews are lifted, underline the tunnel's rosy prospects.

Last week's announcement by the French government - that the high speed TGV train linking Paris and Calais will be ready in time for Eurotunnel's opening, and will link into a high-speed train services circling Paris - has ended one of the key uncertainties that threatened next month's share launch.

Banker will 'strenuously contest' charges

Seelig denies
all Guinness
allegations

By Lawrence Lever



Court appearance: Roger Seelig yesterday (top), and his sureties Paul Hamlyn (below left) and Sir Terence Conran

Mr Roger Seelig, one of the most renowned and feared corporate advisers in the City, yesterday declared his innocence of the 12 charges brought against him by the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad. The charges arise out of his role in the Guinness affair.

He said, through his barrister, that he was "appalled" at the charges, which he "vehemently denied". They would be "strenuously contested," he said.

Mr Seelig, who is ranked among the most successful merchant bankers in recent years and has a long list of prestigious clients to his name, was remanded on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court until November 3.

He also had to surrender his passport to the police, although he can apply for its return.

Sir Terence Conran and Mr Paul Hamlyn - two of the wealthiest men in Britain - agreed to stand surety for Mr Seelig, pledging £250,000 each.

Mr Hamlyn, who made about £200 million from the recent sale of his Octopus publishing empire, introduced a note of levity into yesterday's proceedings when asked by Mr Andrew Colman, one of Mr Seelig's two barristers, whether he was worth £250,000.

"I do hope so," he responded, sending a ripple of laughter through the courtroom and even bringing a broad smile to Mr Seelig's otherwise solemn face.

Sir Terence is chairman of Storehouse, the high street conglomerate encompassing Habitat, Mothercare, British Home Stores, and Richard Shopp. Sir Terence owns about 8 per cent of Store-

house, worth approximately £160 million.

Mr Hamlyn and Sir Terence arrived and left together in a blue Rolls-Royce, while Mr Seelig arrived with his solicitor, Mr David Freeman, in a Mercedes. Mr David Orchard, a partner in Mr Freeman's law firm, had arrived earlier, brandishing a portable telephone.

Immaculately dressed in a dark-grey pinstripe suit, with a white handkerchief in his top pocket, Mr Seelig, who worked for Morgan Grenfell, adviser to Guinness during its bid for Distillers, held his head high throughout the court proceedings.

His appearance, and indeed the charges he faces, made a striking contrast with the previous defendant who had been charged with eating a £3.95 pizza with the intention, from the outset, of refusing to pay for it. That defendant was sentenced to a £50 fine or seven days' jail.

Mr Seelig has been charged with theft of £2.95 million, as well as conspiracy to create a false market in shares, aiding the provision of an unlawful indemnity and other Theft Act charges.

He left the court without making any comment to the Press who had gathered for the fourth time in the past fortnight to see key characters in the Guinness affair come before the magistrates.

The largest crowd of photographers and pressmen had assembled on Wednesday this week for the appearance of Mr Gerald Ronson, whose wealth eclipses even the combined resources of Sir Terence and Mr Hamlyn.

Sir Jack Lyons had also drawn a large audience, while Mr Saunders' latest appearance, on Tuesday, had caught much of the Press by surprise and was sparsely attended.

Polly Peck
purchase
in Far East

Polly Peck International is to buy the Far Eastern consumer electronics company, Capetronic Group, for approximately \$34.3 million (£20 million).

A vendor placing in Japan will raise \$30 million, with the balance being met by a phased payment of cash or a further share issue, depending on profits.

Temper, page 27

Avis to raise Belgian stake

By Our City Staff

Avis Europe, the car rental and leasing group, is looking to boost its car leasing activities by buying a controlling interest in Locadif, a holding company whose five subsidiaries rent and lease cars and trucks in Belgium.

Avis sees car leasing as a key part of its expansion strategy and regards Locadif as a springboard for its leasing activities in Europe. Leasing accounted for about 70 per cent of last year's turnover at Locadif.

The deal is conditional on Avis succeeding in the agreed \$94 million bid it launched last week for CD Bramall, the Bradford motor dealer.

Avis Inc, Avis Europe's parent, yesterday confirmed it was raising £160 million by issuing an international bond convertible into Avis Europe shares. Avis Inc needs the money to help with a leveraged buyout.

Some £50 million of the issue will be sold to the public, with the balance going to D'Ieteren.

WARDLEY
BRITISH
WINNERS
TRUST

SHARE IN SOME
OF BRITAIN'S
MOST EXCITING
INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

See
Page 39

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osts
Scot Me
asset
value up
by £20m

Brussels and business: 1992 and all that

Are Young's amateurs fit to take on EEC professionals?

By John Raven

British business can give a provisional sitting ovation to Lord Young's admission at the Conservative Party conference that the Government is now taking Europe seriously. It hardly had a choice as the European Commission, backed by the European Parliament, is facing member state governments - including our own - with a firm timetable for a real Common Market by 1991.

The enormous political blank cheque of the Rome Treaty, endorsed by numerous summits, and as frequently disavowed on actual presentation, has been split into 105 modest petty cash vouchers.

Each calls for a specific decision on a defined practical issue, under one of five heads: removal of physical barriers, free movement for labour and the professions, a common market in services, and removal of fiscal barriers. Each is precisely, if optimistically, timed for a set date before January 1993.

Every so often, usually on the repentant death-bed of successive six-month Council presidencies, a bundle of these vouchers is countersigned and the Commission sets off corresponding detailed changes in the Community business environment.

The last batch of Council decisions, in June, covered procedures for Community-wide acceptance of cross-country vehicles, noise levels for tower cranes, the rationalization of Customs procedures for raising and releasing duty debts, temporary duty-free entry of containers from third countries, common EEC frequencies for mobile telephones, the simplification of transit rules, safety standards for toys and pressure vessels, and surveillance of dangerous goods.

Each of these prosaic developments nudges some business sector, with all its suppliers, customers and supporting services, just a little nearer that elusive Internal Market. Gradually, the free-trading forebore is being exposed, not by some instant division of the waters but by tiny, wave-by-wave reflexes.

Lord Young's legitimate concern is that British business gets down to producing, patrolling and exploiting each new inch of freedom at every stage of the ebbing protectionist tide.

But this is no unilateral exposure. Every new freedom cuts two, rather 12, ways. What British business is



Working towards a real 'common market': Lord Young

receiving is not just a private tin-opener to attack a piece of other people's markets but a share in a general shake-up which liberates the same part of our own market for 11 other trading communities.

Furthermore, almost every relaxation has a constraint price-tag. No member state wants to throw away safety and health standards or to disrupt the balance and structure of its indirect taxation system. To remove the protectionist barriers which have grown up behind these national practices, the Commission has to haggle through compromises and safeguards to arrive at Commission regulations or directives.

Lord Young, as the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has outlined his department's campaign to help business to understand and operate all these interacting changes, while collecting views and canvassing support to guide British negotiators in each individual Commission proposal.

He has, understandably, said nothing at all about the much more delicate chore of persuading his cabinet colleagues, particularly the Prime Minister, to pay the big political

price of a real 'common market'.

Public procurement is another political pothole. Of course, the British public will like to see unemployment fall if we can penetrate traditional national preserves, say West German power station plant. But will they applaud a government which can be held responsible when a British supplier closes down because a West German competitor

has made off with one of our own big contracts?

Lord Young, or his successor, will have to negotiate such sensitive free-trade-offs at every important stage of the 1992 programme. He must also calm the Tory Party, which will be much more alert to electoral landmines in a 1991 election than to potential economic benefits after 1991.

Meanwhile, his communication and consultation campaign will provide a rigorous public test of Britain's rickety institutional mechanisms. The DTI must assemble and co-ordinate a host of assorted trade associations, a patchy and often strapped-for-cash set of Chambers of Commerce, a not very with-it trade union 'movement', and a gaggle of London-based bodies, including the CBI, and the Institute of Directors.

It is realistic, rather than unambitious, to doubt whether cobbling together such a scratch team will be anything like as effective as the extensive, well-funded, interlocking institutional network in, for example, West Germany and France, where the 1992 campaign is already off to a flying start with all-party, not just government-, organisation and funding.

But what about entrepreneurial forces? Why should the Tory message of commercial self-help pass through this intermediary hotch-pot? The 1992 run-up is bound to produce demands for tailor-made advisory and information services to help managers to identify and exploit individual competitive possibilities.

There will be profitable openings for innovative consultancy services. Many leading consultants now have outposts in Brussels. Their knowledge of Community developments and methods could be invaluable to the bulk of medium-sized British firms which cannot afford their own EEC office but, and would prefer not to, rely on general information and guidance from trade bodies and the DTI.

Furthermore, forecasting, interpreting and following the progress of the 1992 programme and Lord Young's efforts to link it to new horizons for British business will add up to a fascinating blow-by-blow story.

Press and television, acting on their own appreciation of news values, could do more than any DTI campaign to spur commercial performance over those awkward gaps between the negotiating table and the Great Internal Marketplace.

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A fourth force in package holidays

By Derek Harris

Britain's new fourth force in the foreign package holidays market, formed by the merging of British Airways' tour operator interests and Sunmex Holidays, was launched yesterday.

Redwing Holidays has Mr Jim Harris, the British Airways marketing director, as its chairman.

But the man with management control is Mr Vic Fatah, head of Sunmex, one of the most colourful personalities in the industry. Mr Fatah, who has a casting vote on a board evenly matched between BA and Sunmex appointments, said he expected to have freed the venture of BA's loss legacy by March 1989.

In the last full year, the BA tour operations had a £4.7 million trading loss with currency losses of about as much again.

The BA operations now becoming part of Redwing are Enterprise, Sovereign, Flair and Martin Rooks. The first three, like Sunmex, sell through travel agents.

But Martin Rooks sells directly to consumers and is second largest operator in the direct-sell field. It has been trading at a profit, as has the Enterprise subsidiary.

The problems have been more in the volume market where Enterprise particularly has been hit by the keen pricing tactics for the past two summers of Thomson Travel, ILG and Horizon, the three biggest operators.

One priority for Mr Fatah is to cut out loss-makers in the Enterprise operation.

He has taken Sunmex to success by building up holidays in Greece to the point where Sunmex was the biggest operator to that area until Thomson recently inched ahead.

Sunmex has been pioneering package holidays to Turkey, which promises to be among the most fashionable destinations next summer, with Sunmex itself more than quadrupling its 1987 programme to 45,000 holidays.

Mr Fatah said: "Redwing has been selected because it is not a glamour name. The promotion will be on the known brands and they will be progressed through quality and profitability."

Enterprise and Sovereign brochures for next summer, out yesterday, have prices at about the level set by Thomson, Horizon and ILG, according to Mr Fatah.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Sense and nonsense in BA's air merger risks

The reticent Lord Young's Bell-like publicity machine is working overtime. But suggestions that the entrepreneurial Trade Secretary is about to sit on Lord King in order to champion airline competition and the consumer excessive. The Monopolies Commission is due to report by bonfire night on the takeover of British Caledonian by Lord King's British Airways.

Lord Young can accept or reject the commission's findings if it opposes the merger or attaches conditions to approval. He cannot overturn an unqualified MMC approval.

The commission may yet decide to ban the takeover. There are plenty of powerful opponents, by no means all of them are competitors like Harry Goodman. The Civil Aviation Authority does not want to see the demise by takeover of its policy of helping the emergence of an alternative British airline or of its hub-and-spoke airport policy to give independents a chance in the world. It is also worried about the effect on a competitive charter market of an enlarged BA which ruled the roost at both Heathrow and Gatwick.

British Airways knows it will need to smooth away these worries. It would have had to offer a series of concessions and commitments in talks with the Office of Fair Trading even if it had managed to avoid a commission inquiry.

The argument for the merger has always been that British Caledonian was not capable of competing successfully across the world indefinitely. BCal's Sir Adam Thomson finally agreed, though he would blame the Government's refusal, in the interests of a successful privatization of BA, to countenance the CAA's earlier plans to promote independents.

In the circumstances of the real world, it may be better to allow the new, efficient, private BA to build itself up, the better to compete against other world-scale airlines. The commission can address in different ways the problems of competition nearer home.

Lord King and his managing director, Colin Marshall, were prepared to pay a premium price to satisfy Sir Adam and extinguish their rival: £240 million for £100 million of physical assets. What they really wanted was to build up their already impressive route network with slices of the globe apportioned to BCal.

The most important of these are the West African routes and the Saudi routes ceded to BCal in the privatization settlement - both subject to bilateral agreements specifying one British competitor - and BCal's routes to Texas, which would give BA a three-route portfolio of services to the United States, a powerful position in the crucial and cutthroat transatlantic market.

BCal, however, has a number of other routes where it is the designated British competitor to BA, most notably to the

Far East. Neither BA nor the Civil Aviation Authority has ever had much doubt - though the legal position is untried - that these BCal licences would automatically lapse and become available to potential new competitors. BA also risks losing BCal's capacity to New York and a shake-up on domestic routes.

Competition in the domestic market is necessary and available. BA may, however, be banking on there being no viable UK competitor for routes such as Hong Kong and Tokyo, which would require heavy, long-term investment in physical and marketing infrastructure.

An impressive figure

The Treasury put on such a good show with the September public sector borrowing requirement, it is a pity that more people were not around to see it. But even in a ghost City the good number of just £35 million glowed.

The Chancellor, barring unexpected complications in the Star Chamber, will present his Autumn Statement before the next set of PSBR figures. Tuesday November 10 is as good a date as any for him to stand up and give his honest estimate of the PSBR return for the financial year. After yesterday's numbers, showing a cumulative borrowing requirement of just £1.4 billion for the first six months, no one will believe him if that estimate is above £2 billion. The original target was £3.9 billion.

The PSBR excluding privatization proceeds in the first half of this financial year was £1.5 billion below the corresponding period of 1986-87. Given that the outcome for the last full year was only £3.45 billion, a continuation of present trends in the remaining months of the current financial year would produce a PSBR of less than £500 million.

To brighten the prospect still more, the privatization target this year, £5 billion, is above the £4.4 billion achieved last year. With £4 billion already in the kitty, BP will make up most of the remaining £1 billion. The £600 million extra this year would be enough to tip the PSBR past zero, and into surplus, the first since Iron Roy Jenkins in 1969-70.

For the markets, this is encouraging, but not as much as it should be. The PSBR was undoubtedly more of a market influence when it was very bad than now, when it is behaving itself impeccably. There are worries too that last month's low PSBR will help produce a £3 billion-plus bank lending figure, when the money supply figures are released on Tuesday.

And overshadowing any good domestic numbers are the unfriendly winds blowing from overseas. The Bank of Japan now appears to have joined the club of willing participants in the move to higher interest rates.

TEMPUS

Polly Peck enters brave new world with touch of Taiwan

A glance at the Polly Peck share price chart over the last year - showing a 59 per cent outstripping of the market - gives no hint of the shares' roller coaster experience of the previous five years.

The meteoric price rise at the end of 1982, and the derating thereafter, left a bad taste in many mouths.

The nadir was reached during 1986 after an untimely downgrading of 1984-85 estimates by the company's own brokers.

Since then, the management has been strengthened and a clear business plan developed. The objective was to create an operation sourcing and marketing on a truly international basis.

Thus the acquisition of Capetronic, the Far Eastern consumer electronics group, fits neatly into the new strategy. Capetronic designs, develops and manufactures a broad range of products in Taiwan and Hong Kong, serving a prestigious customer base, 60 per cent in the US, 25 per cent in Europe and 15 per cent in Japan.

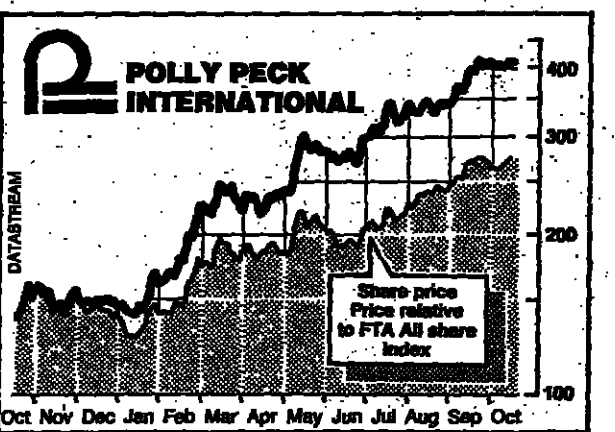
So, post Capetronic, less than 40 per cent of Polly Peck's sales will come from the Near and Middle East.

Capetronic's historic exit p/e is under 10 times on 1986 pretax (and post-tax) earnings of £3.7 million, or 14 times on a full tax charge. But this falls to 5.4 times on prospective profits of \$8 million.

Capetronic's assets are only worth \$6.4 million, throwing up a considerable goodwill item. But the plan is to adopt merger accounting, so cosmetically this theoretical goodwill will not cause Polly Peck any embarrassment.

A recent yet timely presentation by a Polly Peck director to Japanese institutional investors was not in vain as the bulk of the consideration is being met by a placing there of 4.6 million shares at 397p. The rest of the payment is performance related.

The acquisition enhances Polly Peck's 1987-88 earnings



by a penny to 51.5p on estimates prepared by Peter Jones of Shearson Lehman Securities. He believes the changes at Polly Peck are enhancing the quality of earnings and that the shares deserve to be rerated.

There may be room for this as the p/e ratio is a mere 8.1 times.

The determination with which Wall Street has been marking down share prices and the knock-on effect on London share prices has encouraged the Government to err on the side of caution in the pricing of the BP issue.

It is still the biggest issue in the history of markets and nothing can be taken for granted.

The Government can take comfort from the degree of success with which Opec has been defending its \$18-a-barrel oil price since the Saudis flooded the market nearly two years ago.

The superior quality of North Sea oil means that Brent should be about \$1 a barrel more than the Opec price, and in spot markets yesterday, it was quoted at \$18.75.

Now that the issue has been underwritten, the Government is assured of its money. But it still wants a successful issue and 10 days can be a long time in oil markets.

Indeed, in past months, Brent has been trading in a

stable band between \$17 and \$21 a barrel, within 10 per cent of where it should be relative to Opec. Stability is what the integrated oil companies like best, and apart from a calamity, there seems little reason to suppose that stability will not continue at least until the next Opec meeting on December 9.

That being so, BP's share price should hold up until applications are in. Certainly, nothing much happened to the price yesterday. By mid-afternoon, a mere 5,000 BP shares had been traded in the storm-hit London market. The "indicated" price was 348-351p, still 20p above the Government's 330p offer price.

With the price pitched at a 20p discount, and the likelihood of the 120p partly paid going to a 20p premium, the public should bid for as much as they can get their hands on.

The traditionally underweight British institutions will not make up their minds until the last minute. But since those who hold it will get their one for 12 rights at a discount, there may be little incentive to bid up for any more.

Boddingtons

Mr Ewart Boddington will be host at a dinner in the City next week to celebrate the Manchester brewery's 100th anniversary.

He may find some of his guests use the occasion to question the board's judgement in turning out a take-

over approach from Midsummer Leisure without even discussing the proposals with the company.

Midsummer was offering a share swap putting a value of 252p on the Boddington shares, which stood at 167p beforehand. Now that Midsummer has dropped any idea of doing a deal in the face of the rebuff, the shares - which touched 259p on the approach - are heading downstream.

Yesterday they were 188p and were changing hands at these levels only because some market men believe Midsummer Leisure has not given up all hope of reaching agreement. That appears unlikely. There are other fish in the sector.

Boddingtons was no doubt peeved at being approached by a company which until a few years ago was operating a handful of pubs under the old Capem brand.

Boddingtons was also presumably emboldened in its peremptory dismissal of the proposals in the certain knowledge that its main shareholder, Whitbread Investment Company, would stand by the incumbent management. As indeed it did.

But how long can Boddingtons rely on the protection of the Whitbread umbrella? A disappointing 6 per cent advance in pretax profits at the half way stage of the year was due entirely to property profits. Beer sales were down and the brewer's larger business is still in its infancy. Its expansion into catering and leisure is not just wise, but necessary, although it has come late. Plenty of money is being spent on its pubs but the benefits will take some time to flow through. In short, the market believes Boddingtons offers more tomorrow than today.

Boddingtons' continuing independence depends on how long its shareholders are prepared to wait for an upturn. Midsummer Leisure was offering jam today. That could make some shareholders impatient for results.

£10,000 WORTH £17,150 IN JUST 6 MONTHS!

Some little acorns grow very fast indeed. Take the LAS Income & Growth Trust, for example. By investing selectively in the shares of UK companies it has effectively left the FT Actuaries All-Share Index standing, and has been judged the best performing unit trust out of 117 trusts in its sector in the six months to 1st August.

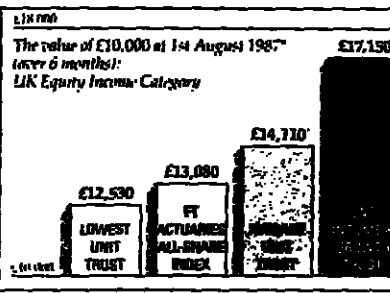
This not only far outstrips the return from a building society, it also easily outperforms the average unit trust.

The recent surge of growth is no flash in the pan, however.

Because since its launch in November 1984 our Income & Growth Trust has consistently been amongst the very best in its sector. For example, an investment of £10,000 when it was launched, would now be worth more than £24,920, and would also have produced (net of basic rate tax) an income of £1,348.

THE BEST OF BRITISH

The Trust aims to achieve both growth of income and growth of capital by investing in expanding and high-yielding UK companies, currently flourishing in the world's fastest-growing major economy. If you invest in the strength and political stability of the UK you have the



Source: Financial Statistics to 1st August 1987. Offer to other trusts without investment of income.

IT'S BEST TO ACT NOW

Now is the time to invest in the strength of the UK economy; and to share in the exciting prospects of the LAS Income & Growth Trust. But do remember that the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.

Talk to your independent financial adviser about this exciting opportunity, or simply snap up the coupon below and send it to us with your cheque.

prospect of achieving above average returns without sacrificing safety and dependability. This is one of the great attractions of the LAS Income & Growth Trust - it combines the growth of the acorn with the solidity of the oak.

THE BEST OF SCOTTISH

We have built up a reputation for investment expertise through prudent and savvy fund management. As LAS Unit Trust Managers we are part of the Life Association of Scotland Group which, since its establishment in 1838, has grown into one of the most widely-respected and successful of Edinburgh-based financial institutions, with over £750 million under management.

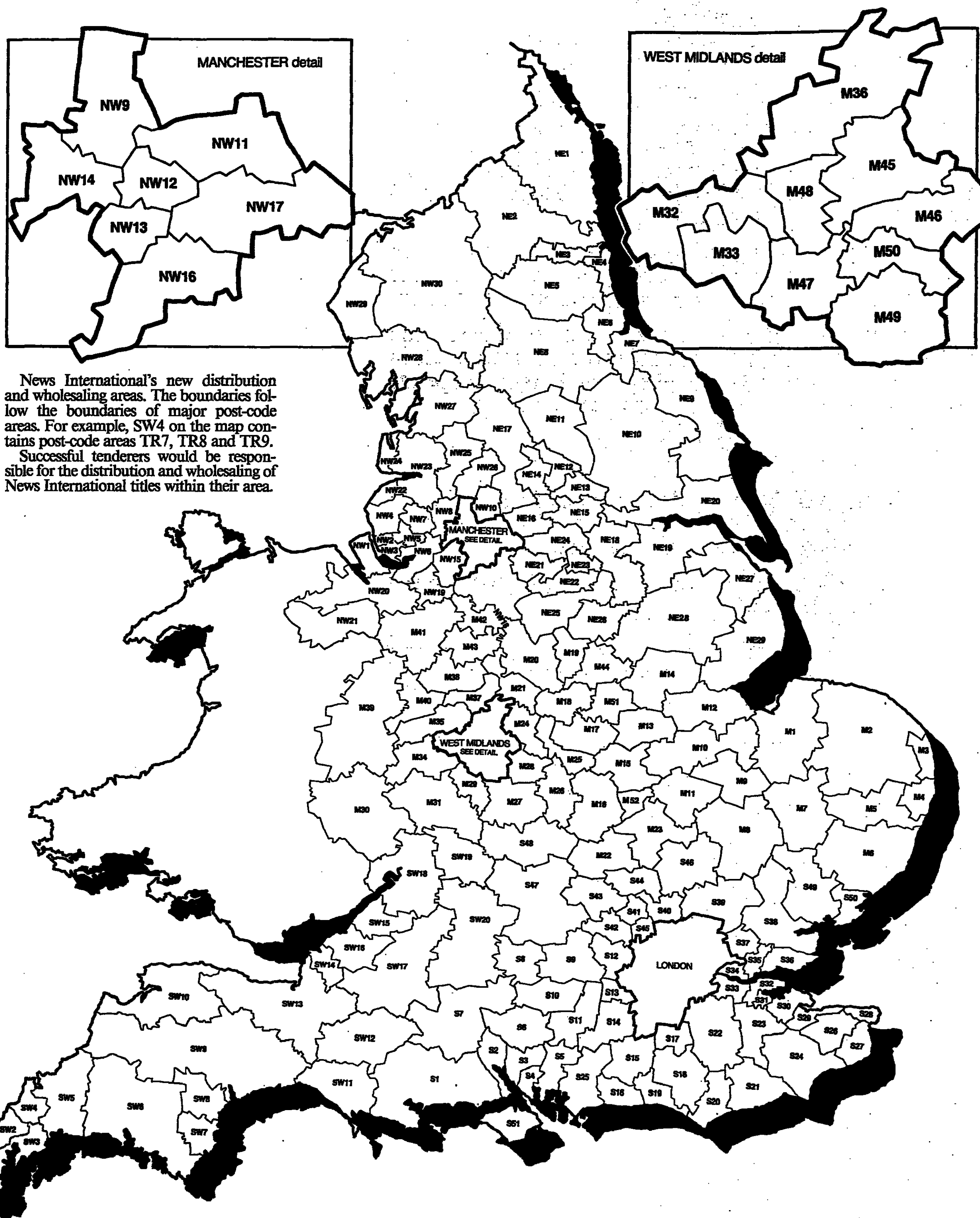
IT'S BEST TO ACT NOW

Now is the time to invest in the strength of the UK economy; and to share in the exciting prospects of the LAS Income & Growth Trust. But do remember that the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.

Talk to your independent financial adviser about this exciting opportunity, or simply snap up the coupon below and send it to us with your cheque.

Form for LAS Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST 1, 10 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 0DB. The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Signature, and a section for the investor to fill out.

News International wholesale change in list



News International's new distribution and wholesaling areas. The boundaries follow the boundaries of major post-code areas. For example, SW4 on the map contains post-code areas TR7, TR8 and TR9.

Successful tenderers would be responsible for the distribution and wholesaling of News International titles within their area.

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announce a distribution

Early next year, News International will change the face of its wholesaling and distribution system.

At the moment News International Distribution Limited, News International's sales arm, uses some 1000 wholesalers to distribute The Sun, the News of the World, Sunday Magazine, The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sunday Times Magazine, The Times Supplements and Today throughout England.

Printed in a variety of plants, the newspapers and magazines are transported by TNT Newsfast to numerous distribution and wholesale points throughout the country.

Next year, we introduce a simpler, more efficient and more cost-effective system. It will service the retail trade in 182 areas in England (excluding London) and operate seven days a week every publishing day of the year.

To run these areas, we invite tenders from existing and potential wholesalers.

Tenderers will have to demonstrate their ability to provide a satisfactory service and show that they have the resources to develop and sustain business.

You can tender for more than one area, though tenders must be made separately.

This is just the first stage of a new distribution and wholesaling system which we expect to expand to include magazines, videotapes from the major companies and other products.

This opportunity to join in the success of News International is unprecedented.

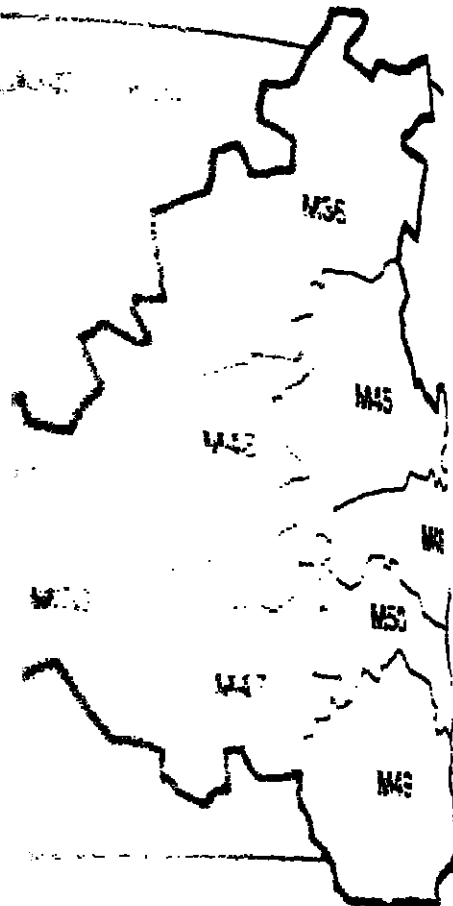
HOW TO TENDER.

All information regarding the tender is obtainable from NIDL, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD, on submission of a £50 returnable deposit made payable to NIDL.

Please make all communications regarding the tender in writing. We regret we cannot discuss your tenders by telephone.

**NEWS INTERNATIONAL
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED**

TODAY · THE TIMES · THE SUNDAY TIMES & MAGAZINE.



Y MAGAZINE

month. (43) 2nd and 4th Wednesday of month. (44) Quarterly. (45) 6th of month.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mark time

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 12. Dealings end October 23. Contango day October 26. Settlement day November 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25.)

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total net profit or loss against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change
1	Quick (EU)	Motor/Aircraft	10.00	0.00
2	Bank One (ns)	Banking	10.00	0.00
3	South (ns)	Power/Transport	10.00	0.00
4	Dunelm	Textiles	10.00	0.00
5	Trident Group	Oil & Gas	10.00	0.00
6	Aluminium	Metals	10.00	0.00
7	British Steel	Metals	10.00	0.00
8	Roof (ns)	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.00
9	AB Elect	Electronics	10.00	0.00
10	Telecom	Telecom	10.00	0.00
11	Telecom	Telecom	10.00	0.00
12	STC (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
13	Schroder	Telecom	10.00	0.00
14	Morgan Guaranty	Banking	10.00	0.00
15	Parsons	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.00
16	Trident Group	Telecom	10.00	0.00
17	Fish	Metals	10.00	0.00
18	Midland (ns)	Banking	10.00	0.00
19	BT (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
20	Telecom	Telecom	10.00	0.00
21	Rank	Metals	10.00	0.00
22	Perry	Metals	10.00	0.00
23	British Steel	Metals	10.00	0.00
24	BT (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
25	Dovey	Metals	10.00	0.00
26	Anglo (ns)	Food	10.00	0.00
27	Wates	Property	10.00	0.00
28	Whitbread 'A' (ns)	Breweries	10.00	0.00
29	Bee (ns)	Breweries	10.00	0.00
30	Laird	Metals	10.00	0.00
31	UCL	Telecom	10.00	0.00
32	BT (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
33	BT (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
34	Alfred (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
35	DOT Group	Telecom	10.00	0.00
36	BBA	Metals	10.00	0.00
37	Barclays	Banking	10.00	0.00
38	BT (ns)	Telecom	10.00	0.00
39	Wesley	Metals	10.00	0.00
40	NAMU Comp	Metals	10.00	0.00
41	Steel (ns)	Metals	10.00	0.00
42	Lee (ns)	Metals	10.00	0.00
43	Parsons	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.00
44	Waters	Metals	10.00	0.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

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INVEST

NO

UNIT TRU

Minimum Investment

Bonds on Investment

MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Sept '86 to Sept '87) +4.2

Mortgage rate* 11.25%

Bank base rate 10%

Bank prime overdraft rate* 13%-18% APR

Personal loan rate* 19.7% APR

Credit card rate* 23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate* 26% APR

Bank deposit account 3.75%

Building society ordinary account 5%

High-interest cheque account* 7.00

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta	193
French franc	9.85
Greek drachma	224
Italian lira	2130

* Typical rates
* £1,000 over 12 months
APR = annual percentage rate

NEW LENDERS IN THE MARKET

Private Label Mortgage Services Ltd (PLMS) has launched a mortgage lending service that will give an insurance company or building society access to funds that it can make available to retail customers. The funds, raised in the money markets, are held by FMS No 3 Ltd, a special-purpose finance vehicle set up exclusively for PLMS by First Mortgage Securities Ltd. Mortgage administration is handled by Mortgage Systems Ltd, the largest UK manager of mortgage portfolios. The initial interest rate will be 11.15 per cent.

DISCOUNTS

Legal & General is offering discounts on three of its unit trusts - the UK Special Situations, North American and European funds. Additional allocations of units ranging from 1% to 3% per cent will be made according to the size of the investment. The discounts will be available until December 11. Similarly, the Life Association of Scotland (LAS) Group is promoting its Income and Growth Trust. Investors will be offered a 2 per cent bonus on applications before October 31.

CHESHIRE ACCOUNT

The Cheshire Building Society has launched a new Tax-Exempt Treasurers Account. The minimum investment is £1. Interest ranges from 6.65 per cent gross on balances up to £499 to 10.85 per cent gross on sums of £50,000 to £250,000.

FAMILY MONEY/2

Gold, a colour for patriots

The Britannia, the British gold bullion coin, went on sale this week. It is minted in four sizes and each coin is legal tender. The smallest, which is a tenth of an ounce, carries a face value of £10, and the largest, weighing 1oz, has the highest face value of any coin minted in the UK - £100.

Of course, even the most affluent patriots are unlikely to use the new coin to settle their debts. The Britannia, which is aimed at the investment market, contains no less than the stated amount of pure gold, and how much you will have to pay for a coin will depend on the price of gold on the day of purchase.

The London gold price is set twice every day, at 11am and 3pm, by the five senior members of the London gold market - Mocatta & Goldsmid, Samuel Montagu, N.M. Rothschild, Sharps Pixley and Mace Westpac.

In order to cover the cost of manufacturing and distribution, bullion coins are sold at a premium above the price of gold. The premiums will be broadly in line with other international gold coins.

For an investor buying a single 1oz Britannia the premium will be about 4.5 to 5 per cent, including all handling charges but excluding VAT. For the 1/2 oz, this rises to 11-12 per cent.

At present levels, a 1oz Britannia would cost about £340, including VAT.

To avoid paying VAT, which at 15 per cent certainly diminishes the investment, you need to buy and store your coins in an offshore financial centre, such as the Channel Islands, Gibraltar or Luxembourg, where VAT is not levied.

From the safety point of view, for those investors who choose to keep their coins in



Dr Jeremy Gerhard, Royal Mint deputy master: confident the UK, it is a good idea to store them at the bank. Anyone who keeps them at home, must remember to insure them on the contents insurance policy. Failure to do this could be expensive - if the coins are stolen, the owner will receive only the face value.

Apart from the VAT and security aspects, there is another point to bear in mind when considering an investment in physical stocks of gold, namely the trend dictating that the price of physical gold lags behind that of gold mining and production share prices.

Investors who are put off by the disadvantages of holding stocks of gold may prefer to use other methods, such as the futures and options markets, shares or one of the specialist unit trusts.

Nevertheless, the Royal Mint is certain that many UK

bullion coins are minted and sold every year. The United States Eagle accounts for about 45 per cent of the market and the Canadian Maple Leaf about 40 per cent.

There are various other gold coins such as the Australian Nugget and the Chinese Panda. Although South African kruggerands can still be traded, it should be remembered that at the end of last year, the Government imposed a ban on the import of these coins from countries outside the European Community, and consequently the market in these coins has slowed down.

The Britannia will be sold throughout the world. In the UK coins will be available from bullion brokers, banks and stockbrokers.

The Britannia Building Society has also been appointed a retail agent. The society will hold order forms, and Sharps Pixley, the bullion brokers, will send the coins direct to the purchasers.

The Britannia certainly makes an attractive gift and

could be used as an item of jewellery.

For people who are intending to buy, say, one or two coins as an investment, Rhona O'Connell, the precious metals analyst at Shearson Lehman Brothers, says: "They should view them as more of an insurance policy and a store of wealth, rather than an opportunity for making a great capital gain. So far this year, the price of gold has risen from \$390 in January to a high of \$480. My view is that a lot will now depend on the outcome of the US presidential election."

Only 10 per cent of the portfolio

For someone who is intending to spend £10,000, her advice would be to opt for a small bar of gold instead, where the fabrication and distribution costs are lower. As a general rule, gold should not form more than 10 per cent of your investment portfolio.

Amanda Pardoe



Bullion galore: The coins could be a useful investment

Other methods may be preferred

when considering an investment in physical stocks of gold, namely the trend dictating that the price of physical gold lags behind that of gold mining and production share prices.

Investors who are put off by the disadvantages of holding stocks of gold may prefer to use other methods, such as the futures and options markets, shares or one of the specialist unit trusts.

Nevertheless, the Royal Mint is certain that many UK

Directors in court

Richard Atterton, managing director of Containerworld Services, the container-leasing company that went into liquidation in April, has been released on bail, together with his co-director Peter Smith.

Both men appeared before Southampton magistrates - Mr Atterton on September 29, and Peter Smith on October 1.

They are charged with three joint offences of obtaining a total of £122,000 by deception from three different investors.

Sureties of around £50,000 have been put up for each of them. The bail conditions included the retention of both men's passports. They are also required to report to the police three times a week.

Both men are due to appear in court again on November 3.

The company's debts run to more than £6 million. Meanwhile, the joint liquidators, Laurence Gerrard and Richard Hyams, are still investigating the company's affairs.

They have already instituted legal proceedings against companies in a number of countries, including

Singapore and the United States.

If successful, they could recover more than £1 million.

At present, the existing containers are being managed by the Oxford-based company Acurecon. The liquidators have asked investors to sign new management agreements with the managers of their choice - including Acurecon - by the end of this month.

The question of who is entitled to the rental income on the containers since the company went into liquidation is still unanswered.

The liquidators went to court earlier this week to get directions, but no decision was made. The point at issue is whether the money is purely for the individuals whose containers do exist, or whether it forms part of the liquidators' estate.

A full court hearing will be held to resolve the problems but this will not be before next year. In the meantime, all rental income is being held in trust by the liquidators.

AP

NO.1 EUROPEAN TRUST THIS YEAR TO DATE!†

If you think Europe's been asleep, it's time you woke up with Fidelity.

One thing's for sure, the Manager of Fidelity European Trust hasn't been sleeping this year! While the FTA European Index (excluding U.K.) has dropped 2.7%, the offer price of Fidelity European Trust has increased a massive 61%. In fact £1,000 invested at launch in November 1985 is now worth £3,004.**

It's true that, taken as a whole, Europe has been sluggish. But the markets and economies of continental Europe are extremely diverse and hold a multitude of opportunities.

The aim of the Trust is to maximise capital growth from an actively managed portfolio of European securities. Potential abounds if you know where to look for it and through careful stock picking Fidelity European Trust has performed strongly. What's more, these markets now offer highly encouraging prospects, as the big institutions are rapidly recognising.

Stock picking - the key to success.

Fidelity has over ten years' experience in Europe and a research team with the expertise to pick individual investment opportunities.

For example, last year alone they visited over three hundred different companies to make on-the-spot evaluations.

This kind of detailed knowledge has enabled us to make major gains, for example by overweighting our investment in the smaller, less well-known but currently more dynamic Norwegian and Spanish stockmarkets.

Offer to offer 1.18% to 12.10%. (Offer to bid figure not applicable when compared against an Index.)
**Offer to bid 4.11% to 12.10%*. Source: OPAL Statistics.
†Source: Planned Savings.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INVESTORS
A contract note for your application will normally be sent within 2 working days. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 10 working days of receipt of settlement. The current estimated gross yield for Fidelity European Trust is 0.00% at the offer price of 79.1p at 12th October 1987. (Units may be sold on any day at the bid price ruling. You will receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your renounced certificate. Accumulation units only are issued. Any income will be accumulated to the Trust and its value reflected in the unit price. Investors will receive a tax voucher on 17th November each year (or 16th October) An initial charge of 4.25% is included in the offer price of units out of which the Managers will pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available upon request. The Trust pays an annual charge to the Managers out of income (or capital if there is insufficient income) of 1.5% plus VAT of the value of the Fund. Check your investment prices and yields daily in The Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, Oracle page 574 and on Proshare 481906. Trustee: Clydesdale Bank plc. Managers: Fidelity Investment Services Limited. Registered Office: River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1JW. Registered Company Number: 2016555. The Trust is a wider-range Trustee security authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to United States citizens, residents of the United States or the Republic of Ireland.

On the other hand, in the relatively more difficult markets of Germany, Switzerland and France, we have concentrated on specific stocks which have the potential to outperform local market conditions.

Beat the big money into Europe.

Europe's markets are still under-valued by world standards. And they are still under-owned. So there's still time to move in before more money moves in from local institutional and private investors, as well as the giant American and Japanese institutions. Moreover, Europe's markets are still largely under-researched. So there's a vast wealth of investment potential yet to be tapped.

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Surname Mr/Ms/Miss _____
(This is a letter please)
First Name(s) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

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Five tailored investment options are available - from the very cautious to the speculative - all managed by Aetna's top performing investment experts and at no extra charge to you. And we give you a discount of up to 5% every time we switch trusts on your behalf.

Minimum Investment only £2,500
1% Bonus on investments of £5,000 or more

*Planned Savings statistics as at 1 October 1987. Weighted average performance (all funds) over 1 year of the 30 largest unit trust groups.

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Forenames _____ Date of Birth _____
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Postcode _____

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Open each weekday 8 am to 8 pm

Name of your usual financial adviser _____
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TT 17/10/87

Welcome relief for students

COVENANTS

Many university students will be turning to their parents during the next few months for financial help to supplement their grants. A popular way of giving this money is by way of deed of covenant.

The Inland Revenue has issued a facts information pack for students explaining the technicalities of deeds of covenant together with draft forms for their use. The pack is particularly useful and should help to ensure that valid arrangements do not fall foul of legal technicalities.

For example, in the information pack there are two standard forms for use as deeds of covenant. One covers covenants who are resident in England, Wales or Northern Ireland and the other is for those resident in Scotland. The wording on these two deeds differs because of varying legal requirements in Scotland.

If a covenantor inadvertently uses the wrong form the Revenue would reject the tax repayment claim because the deed would not be legally binding.

The Revenue have also published a booklet on deeds of covenant, IR74, which sets out some do's and don'ts. This advice indicates the types of abuse that the claims branch of the Revenue is attacking. The investigation work during



Studying time: Now is also the time to think of easing a student's lot

1986 concentrated on covenant abuse relating to the payment of school fees and church donations and just one investigation cases resulted in tax liabilities of about £1.3 million.

Some cases resulted from poor administrative controls—for example, covenant schemes run by certain churches that failed to ensure that all covenanted money has been received before making the tax repayment claim. But some were of a more serious nature and four charities were referred to the board's investigation office, which is

equivalent to the Revenue's police force, to consider criminal prosecution.

The Revenue take such a serious view on this abuse that it intends to increase the coverage of its attack on covenants and to include a review over such schemes as charity giving by way of vouchers.

In the past, the Revenue has tended to be lenient in its treatment of charities where there has been some inadvertent irregularity. But with the introduction of tax relief on certain charity giving

schemes and their perceived abuse by taxpayers the whole attitude of the Revenue can be seen to be hardening.

This will affect not just charities but also individuals. So, if you have ever been tempted to enter a reciprocal arrangement on a deed of covenant or you receive some value in exchange for the covenanted money, think again as you will end up in deep trouble with the taxman.

Ian Trumper

Tax investigation services
group of Deloitte Haskins
& Sells

Deadlines and deals for BP-watchers

SHARES

The Government announced this week that it is selling its remaining 31.5 per cent stake in BP at 330p a share, that is, at a 6 per cent discount.

The minimum investment is 80 shares, and payment will be made in three instalments. The cost per share will be £1.20 on application, and £1.05 per share for both subsequent instalments. The total cost of a minimum holding will be £264.

For minimum investors the first payment will be £96 and must accompany the application form, which has to be received by 10am on October 28. The second instalment, of £84, will be due on August 30 next year and the third, also £84, on April 27, 1989.

Individuals who keep shares for three years will be eligible for one free bonus share for every 10 bought. The maximum is 150 bonus shares.

Individuals who registered with the BP share information office before the cut-off date on October 9 will automatically be guaranteed an allocation of 100 shares if they wish to apply. Personalized blue application forms will be sent to them this weekend.

Application forms will be widely available for anyone who has not registered with the BP information office—in banks, post offices and at BP petrol stations. The Newcastle Building Society will also carry application forms in its 55 branches.

For successful applicants who intend to sell their allotted shares, there are several recently announced schemes.

The National Westminster Bank said this week it is expecting record-breaking business for its dealing service when BP share trading begins. It handled 167,000 deals for the British Gas privatization, and believes the BP transactions could exceed 200,000. The service will be available in 245 branches.

Investors will be able to buy BP shares in the form of acceptance letters from 2.30pm on October 30. They will receive a contact note immediately, and will be sent a renounced acceptance letter in about 10 working days.

People who want to sell their allotted shares through the NatWest screen service will be able to do so by presenting their acceptance letter. Acceptance letters are expected to be sent out on November 9.

NatWest will quote sellers two sets of prices. The first will show the price at which County NatWest Securities will deal, and the second will show the best prices being quoted in the market at the time. If the sale is agreed, both a contract note and a settle-

ment cheque will be issued on the spot.

The service, which closes on December 31, is being offered to all personal investors with 1.5 per cent commission on deals up to £5,000 and 1 per cent on the next £7,500. The minimum charge has been increased to £20. The bank's spokesman said the £15 on earlier deals was uneconomical, and that the increase brings it into line with other major banks.

As County NatWest Securities will be a market-maker in BP shares, anyone dealing through the NatWest screen service will escape VAT.

The regional co-ordinators listed in the BP pathfinder prospectus are charging a minimum of £15 plus VAT. However, although the commission is lower in many cases, sellers will not receive settlement immediately.

Barclays also announced this week that it would provide a nation-wide service for BP share sales. Its service, offered through Barclaysbank, the bank's retail stockbroker arm, will be available at all the

Saving dealing costs for families

bank's branches. Contract notes and cheques will be available within 48 hours of the deal on production of allotment letters.

To save on dealing costs, families will be allowed to consolidate their allotment letters up to a total of five. Commission will be charged at the usual Barclays rates, with the first £7,000 costing 1.5 per cent (minimum £20), and reducing thereafter.

The service will be available as soon as dealing starts, for about six weeks. Barclays branches may consider taking orders before receiving allotment letters, provided customers accept the risks involved.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will sell shares for a minimum of £15 at any of its 177 branches, and aims to despatch payment within two working days. An added attraction of this service is that the society's customers who sell their shares can have their account credited, and where this is requested the interest is backdated to the day of the sale. The society will not be charging VAT.

As a concession to unlucky applicants, the Woolwich Building Society has said that any of its customers who draw cheques for the BP share offer will not lose interest if the cheques are returned intact because of unsuccessful applications. This will apply only to cheques that have not been presented.

Amanda Pardoe

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FAMILY MONEY/4

Monthly fee to care for your teeth

DENTISTS

Thousands of patients have already joined a scheme that offers them private dental care for a fairly modest monthly payment. The scheme is the first of its kind in Britain.

The company that has introduced it says that it is a national capitation scheme and insists that it is not an insurance policy or a kind of BUPA for teeth.

Earlier this year Denplan, a company formed in 1986 in Winchester, Hampshire, started Denplan Care. Quite simply, a patient pays the monthly sum by direct debit to the company, which in turn promises full private treatment from a dentist who has joined the scheme.

Patients join by approaching a Denplan-registered dentist, possibly their own, who counts their fillings and assesses their oral health, and uses a grading chart to determine the charge.

The charge can be as little as £3 a month, though this is likely to be for young children. The average payment being made by patients who have so far joined the scheme is £6.25 a month. There is a reduction for family membership. This can be up to 15 per cent.

Stephen Noar, Denplan's managing director, says only 5 per cent of patients in the

under the scheme at 35 per cent of the normal private fee.

Denplan Care, however, does not cover treatment from a specialist, orthodontic therapy or treatment alternative to what the patient's dentist considers necessary. There may be a small charge for drug prescriptions and treatment outside normal surgery hours.

Patients can leave the scheme whenever they wish - they are on the equivalent of a month's contract through monthly direct debit payments - and they can change dentists. Their payments can also go down, or up, after the dentist's automatic annual re-assessment of their state of dental health.

Mr Noar, himself a dentist, says the scheme was started to allow dentists to give more preventive care by replacing National Health Service piece work payments with a set fee per patient.

The idea is that dentists will have the incentive to spend more time with patients because they have a guaranteed income.

Denplan's public relations consultant, Alison Munro, said: "It gives the incentive to dentists to use better quality materials and equipment. There is a general feeling that the NHS has fallen out of step with the needs of the patient. The emphasis is on repair and treatment rather than preventive care and the quality of that treatment."

Incentive to give patients more time

scheme are paying more than £8. He said: "We are offering comprehensive dental care for little more than the price of a pint of beer a week. Some of the people using us are even on social security. Most people anyway pay 70 per cent of their dental costs."

The patient is offered regular check-ups, preventive therapy and treatment, and can have emergency treatment by any chosen dentist, even one not in the scheme, when more than 25 miles away from home within the UK. The away-from-home emergencies are covered by an arrangement with the General Accident insurance company.

Cover for patients while abroad is not in the plan as this is available under normal DHSS arrangements, but Mr Noar says this could be provided if the need arose.

Crowns, bridges, dentures and other treatment involving a dental laboratory are offered

All the dentists in the scheme have attended special seminars organized by Denplan, and one of the scheme's conditions is that they go on post-graduate courses to keep them up to date with modern dentistry.

So far about 500 dentists have joined the scheme and between 5,000 and 10,000 patients have registered. Denplan dentists are recruiting new patients for the scheme at the rate of two or three a week each.

Mr Noar expects there will be more similar schemes in Britain. The question that poses itself is whether the NHS dental service will eventually be made virtually redundant by Denplan Care and other similar schemes. Mr Noar says: "The DHSS is watching us with great interest."

Although the scheme has already been in operation for several months, there will be an official national launch later this year.

Brian Collett



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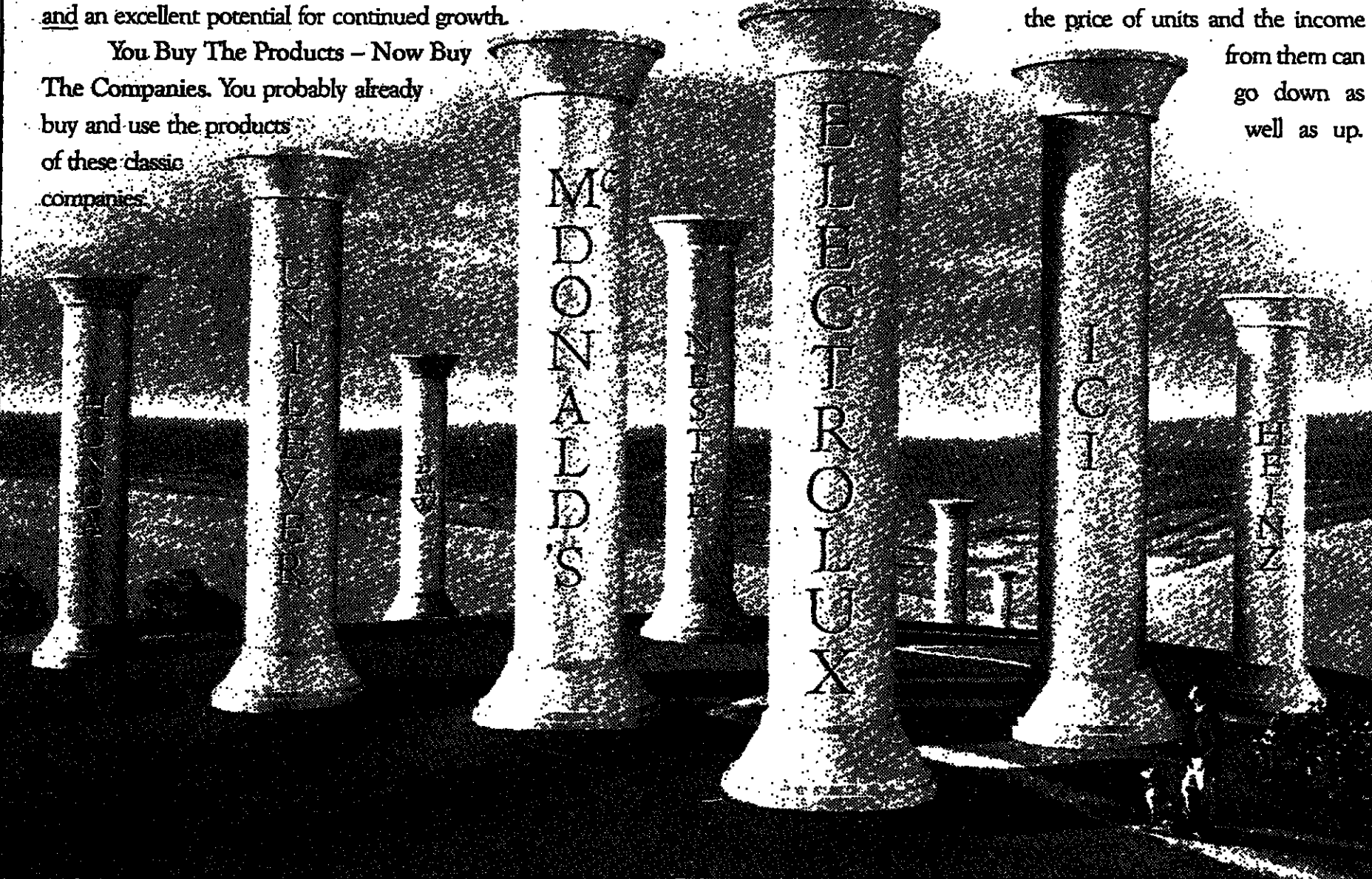
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Heron Quays

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**Offer to bid from 1/10/82 to 1/10/87 net income reinvested
(Offer to bid figure not applicable when compared against an Index)
Source: 1983 Statistics and Fidelity

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Fidelity
MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY



Spoilt for choice: Variety adds spice to the life of the bargain-hunting motorist at this time of year — but caution is advised.

The second-hand season

CARS

The booming second-hand car market enjoyed a further boost as owners off-loaded their used vehicles and joined the record-breaking rush to buy E-registered vehicles.

Consequently, there seems to be no better time than the present to go in search of a four-wheeled bargain.

The chief rationale is that the extra flow of used cars now available will include many models under three years old — the most popular change-over time — whose owners have been persuaded to trade in "early" so that they can acquire new ones bearing the latest registration index letter.

Bargain-seekers can thus choose from a larger than usual selection of second-hand vehicles still in the prime of life, and without bearing the brunt of initial price depreciation, which is heaviest on costly new cars.

Although prices of new models have risen by an average 10 per cent during the past 12 months, those of used

cars have increased at a slower rate — about 7 per cent for two-year-old vehicles.

Buying used is really "the best bet for a wider choice of better, more comfortable cars" than one might be able to consider new, concludes the recent *Which? Car Buying Guide*.

How do these tenets of conventional wisdom hold up in practice? A hard-nosed look at products, prices and market practices suggests that potential buyers should proceed

Dealers amazed at prices reached

cautiously and not be stampeded by the present heady atmosphere.

The trade, which handles about half of the four million or so used cars sold annually, is moving its stock fast. Even dealers are amazed at the high sums customers are ready to part with, especially at auctions.

"Some very stupid prices are being paid, with high-mileage cars going for low-mileage prices", says one West Country auto trader.

Strong consumer demand has made some dealers reluctant about offering part-exchange deals to improve sales, and has prompted the dirty end of the trade into a renewed round of "clocking" — the illegal practice of turning back a car's odometer to show a false, reduced mileage — on the Arthur Daley premise that mug punters abound in a bullish market.

The Motor Agents' Association, which is pressing the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre to record odometer readings when cars change hands, maintains that the public are also guilty of clocking.

It points to the case of a Scotsman who reported a garage for allegedly tampering with her odometer, only to find her husband was responsible for it.

A further consideration is that more and more makes are holding their prices, primarily

including Minis, post-1983 Toyotas, newish Nissans, Ford Fiestas and Granadas, BMW Series 3s, Triumph Acclaims, Mazda 323s and 626s, Volvos, Hondas, Vauxhalls, Opels, Volkswagens and Mercedes-Benz.

So, although you may well get good value, you will not generally come across reliable models of any of the above makes at bargain, let alone knock-down prices. If you do, take great care before buying.

Be healthily sceptical, too, of the "one careful owner" claim, not only because it may be untrue, but also because infrequent use, cold starts and short mileages can be just as wearing on a car as motorway journeys.

When selling, consider going private if the dealer will not take your car as a trade-in. When buying, use a reputable dealer, preferably one in the Motor Agents' Association, whose members are pledged to observe a code of practice drafted in consultation with the Office of Fair Trading.

Buying from a dealer also gives you maximum protection.



tion under the 1979 Sale of Goods Act and the 1968 Trade Descriptions Act, whereas a private deal involves little legal redress against the seller if your purchase turns out to be a clunking rust box.

Be on your guard against the rogue traders posing as private sellers, and also against the dealers who tell you: "This type's very popular. It'll go in a couple of days."

As the Automobile Association says, the trick is not to be too desperate. If the car is that

Retailers often give own warranties

popular, you should soon locate a similar model in better condition, possibly at a lower price. *Parkers Car Price Guide*, which is available through newsgroups or the publishers (45 St. Mary's Road, Ealing, London W5 5RQ), may prove helpful.

The trade is trying to increase public confidence: there is already an 85 per cent satisfaction rate with used cars, according to an independent survey. As part of this effort, retailers often now provide their own warranties, formal guarantees covering specific defects for periods of up to two years.

Watch for exclusion clauses, such as labour charges, and **check** sure the warranty is transferable.

Finally, and most importantly, satisfy yourself that the car is structurally and mechanically sound. Both the main motoring organizations operate inspection schemes: The Royal Automobile Club's scheme is available to non-members for around £47.

Alternatively, hire a local mechanic to advise you. He may expect £20-£30 for the work, but your money will be well spent if he steers you to a sound buy or helps you to gain a price reduction, bearing in mind that repairs and replacements comprise at least half of total running costs.

Nicholas Cole

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FAMILY MONEY/6

A woman who should work for her man

TAX

It is unfair, even a slur on women, that Denis should have to sign Mrs Thatcher's tax form. But is it fair that Denis should have to pay the tax on any dividend income Mrs Thatcher may receive on her privatized shares?

The Conservative Party conference focused attention again on the old chestnut: What can be done about the tax treatment of husbands and wives? Few defend the taxman's inclination to regard women as appendages rather than real people. But almost two years after the Chancellor's Green Paper discussing various reforms we are no nearer a solution.

There are two problems. The first is a sort of tax version of the who-does-what argument that formed the basis of a good many union disputes.

The wife decides to save from her house-keeping money, and pays it into a Post Office investment account. This pays interest gross, it is the wife's pin money, and the husband knows nothing about it. He makes the usual declarations to the Inland Revenue, but then the taxman discovers the investment account.

The husband is now guilty of failing to disclose all relevant information, and is also liable to pay tax on the income at his marginal rate, even if the husband and wife had elected for separate assessment, or even separate taxation. Separate assessment merely assesses who pays what but follows the rules of joint taxation, and in separate taxation both husband and wife are considered separately for earned income.

It is perhaps the question of whether or not to elect that creates one of the most complicated problems in husband-wife taxation arrangements. Unless a couple choose separate assessment, they are automatically assessed jointly.

Say a husband is earning £25,000. The wife, having taken time off to have children, returns to work in a part-time job earning £5,000. Of their total £30,000 earnings, they will receive total tax allowances of £6,220, comprising £3,795 for the married man's allowance and £2,425 for the married woman's earned income allowance.

This still takes the £23,780 joint taxable income into the higher tax bands. The first £17,900 is at the basic rate, the next £2,500 at 40 per cent, and the remaining £3,380 at 45 per cent. The total tax due: £7,354.

However, if the couple elected for separate taxation the position would change marginally. The husband would receive the £2,425 single person's allowance and pay

The advantage of separate assessment

£6,811.75 tax. The wife would also receive a single person's allowance and pay £695.75. The total tax paid would be £7,507.50, that is, £152.50 more than in joint assessment.

However, if the husband remains a higher-rate taxpayer, earning about £25,000, and if the wife earns £6,545 or more, it is definitely advantageous to elect for separate assessment. The small margin in favour of joint assessment in our example swings distinctly in favour of separate assessment.

The wife, of course, would pay National Insurance contributions and on PAYE earnings this would be Class 1 contributions, a maximum of 9 per cent of earnings. On £5,000 this would be restricted to 7 per cent of earnings.

If the husband was self-employed, a better bet would be for the wife to work for her husband rather than seek work elsewhere. If the husband paid her £39 a week, that is, £2,028 a year, she would have to pay neither National Insurance nor tax. Her husband could set that amount against his profits and reduce his tax liability.

If, as in our previous example, the husband made a £25,000 profit and paid his

wife £5,000, this would have a significant impact on his tax position. His £25,000 taxable profits would be reduced by the wife's £5,000 salary plus the £350 (7 per cent of £5,000) National Insurance contributions he will pay as an employer on his wife's behalf. In addition, he will be allowed to set against his profits half of the Class 4 National Insurance contributions he pays.

This will reduce the husband's taxable profits to £19,312. Assuming that the couple do not elect for separate assessments, the total amount on which tax will be levied will be £19,312 plus the wife's £5,000 salary.

Against this £24,312 total will be set the married man's allowance and the wife's earned income relief totalling £6,220, making a taxable income of £18,092. The tax on this would be £4,910.

To arrive at the money he would get in his hand, we add back to the £18,092 the half of the Class 4 contributions we took off for tax purposes, that is, £339. This gives us £18,431, to which we add the £5,000 salary he pays his wife. From this £23,431 total we deduct the £4,910 tax and arrive at his net pay of £18,521.

'Chancellor should look at anomalies'

But this is before National Insurance contributions. The husband would pay self-employed National Insurance contributions of £3.85 a week, totalling £200.20 for 52 weeks plus Class 4 contributions of £677.24. The wife would have to pay Class 1 contributions of £350, being 7 per cent of her £5,000 salary. The total National Insurance contributions would be £1,227. After all the National Insurance deductions, the couple would have £18,514 a year.

Compare this with our first example where the couple had a total £30,000 income. After tax and National Insurance deductions the take-home pay would be £20,096, that is, £2,401 more. This sounds a lot, but if the wife goes to work rather than helping her husband this might mean, depending on the nature of the husband's work, fees for child minders, travelling expenses, even clothes. This could easily eat up the £2,401, leaving her only marginally better off.

Also remember that in our comparison between the wife taking an outside job and helping a self-employed husband we have assumed the self-employed couple have total £25,000 earnings, or £3,000 less than the couple with two outside jobs. If both couples' total income was the same, the tax position in favour of the self-employed would be more pronounced.

If the Chancellor enacted some of the reform proposals, the married man's allowance would go. Both husband and wife would each enjoy a single person's allowance. If the wife was not working she could transfer that allowance to her husband.

In our example, if the husband earned £25,000 and his wife was not working, he would enjoy a total tax allowance of twice £2,425 - £4,850. This would reduce his taxable pay to £20,150 and the tax on that would be £5,733, leaving him with £14,417 take-home pay. Under the present system he would get only £3,795 (the married man's allowance) and would pay £6,195 tax, that is, £462 more.

David Major, a tax-partner at Spicer & Pepler, says: "Any reform proposal should be looked at carefully. It is not a simple matter of looking at the wife's tax position and giving her the wonderful right to sign her own tax form. They should also look at the anomaly of the husband paying tax on the wife's investment income. Let the wife join the club, but do not penalize the wife who does not want to work and stays at home."

"Equality is a two-edged sword."

Mihir Bose

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How they beat the taxman

LIZ WALKINGTON looks at the advantages of investing in offshore funds

no income tax was payable, but only capital gains tax when shares were sold.

Unfortunately, the Revenue clamped down again in 1984, stipulating that income tax would be charged on all realized gains from offshore funds, whether profit or accumulated income. The only way out was for funds to

Angled towards expat markets

qualify for "distributor" status, which meant they had to pay out at least 85 per cent of their income as dividends. Income tax would then be charged only on these receipts.

By and large, distributor funds have more appeal for the UK investor, the tax liability being the same as for domestic unit trusts.

However, because of the regulations involved, funds opting for this route had to be considerably reorganized. Not surprisingly, several chose to remain as roll-ups, and are angled very largely towards the expatriate and international markets.

Offshore funds may be structured either as investment companies or as unit

trusts. The former type issues shares, whereas the latter has units, but as far as the investor is concerned, they operate in a similar fashion.

Both types of fund are open-ended. This means there is no limit to the number of shares or units in existence, and the price of every one will be directly related to the value of the fund's underlying portfolio, rather than determined by demand.

The minimum investment is generally of the order of £1,000 or a foreign currency equivalent.

The procedures for buying and selling vary from fund to fund. If it is an investment company quoted on a stock exchange, shares may be bought through a stockbroker, otherwise dealing may be direct with the management group or through an appointed representative.

Charges on offshore funds fall into several categories. All funds usually include in the price, and there is also an annual management fee, as on unit trusts. Other expenses deducted from the fund itself cover legal, audit, registration and custodian fees.

Newer funds in particular often try to keep charges to a minimum, so as to compare

favourably with on-shore investments.

One potential drawback with offshore funds is that the industry is very widespread, and there is no single regulatory body. The rules under which funds operate are determined by their location, and the only generalization to be made is that they are likely to be less rigorous than those on the mainland.

For this reason, it is important to choose a reputable management group. Most funds aimed at UK investors are in fact run by subsidiaries of domestic investment companies, including well known names such as Fidelity, MIM Britannia and Schroder.

Most of these are based close to home, in either the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, though some funds are based in more exotic territories, such as the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.

New centre planned in Madeira

Of late there has been growing interest in Luxembourg, Ian Phillips, of Clerical Medical International, which has recently begun an operation there, explains that it offers a good base for UK and European markets, and is a recognized financial centre, with the right professional infrastructure - in other



OFFSHORE FUNDS 1

words, a plentiful supply of lawyers and accountants.

More importantly, it is within the European Community. Under legislation due to come into effect in 1989, collective investment schemes such as unit trusts will be freely marketable throughout member countries of the community, provided appropriate rules for investor protection are in place, and the management group is fully authorized.

Abbey Life is another company to have set up in Luxembourg, and others may follow. In particular, there may be moves from groups now based in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, as these are not technically within the community.

Recently Madeira has also announced it is to establish an offshore financial centre. No British companies have made a decision to move there yet, but it could be an option in the future, especially if Luxembourg becomes overcrowded.

Islands have the advantage

There are well over 1,000 domestic unit trusts today, covering markets from North America to Japan. So why should an investor want to look offshore?

Tax is one good reason. With a roll-up fund, the tax liability can be deferred until shares are sold. The investor then pays income tax, even on

his capital gains, but may make a saving if he is at that time liable on a lower rate.

With a distributor fund, the position is more complex. In theory income is paid gross, which may have cash flow benefits as the full proceeds can be enjoyed until the tax bill arrives. In practice, however, there may be some double taxation, particularly on equity funds.

Mike Whittaker, of Abbey Life, explains: "Dividends received by a fund have already had tax deducted at source. When they are paid out to investors, a unit trust can issue a tax credit, so that a basic-rate taxpayer has no more to pay. But an offshore fund is deemed by the Revenue to make gross payments, so tax will be charged again."

Another merit of offshore funds is that they have greater investment scope. In addition to equity, gilt and bond funds, there are other varieties not found onshore. One example is the umbrella fund. This is an investment company offering different classes of share. Every class represents a separate portfolio, and the range would typically include equity, bond and currency funds.

The idea is that the investor can convert holdings from one class to another on favourable terms. If he was selling one unit trust to buy another, he would incur a fresh initial charge every time, but within the umbrella fund conversions are carried out at a single price, with no bid-offer spread. There may be a fee for switching, but this is generally small, around 1 per cent, and often some free movements are allowed every year.

There is also a tax advantage. Conversions do not involve cashing out, and will not give rise to a capital gains tax liability. This will arise only when shares are finally sold.

Occasionally, though, it may be beneficial to realize gains to utilize the annual capital gains tax exemption, which is £6,600 at present. This can be done by making a switch, involving selling one set of shares and purchasing another. In the Revenue's eyes switches constitute a disposal for tax purposes, whereas conversions do not.

For investors who do not expect to use up their full capital gains allowance elsewhere, switching will usually be more favourable. Ian Phillips, of Clerical Medical International, points out: "It is useful to have the choice."

As a rule, umbrella funds are not for the very small

Wider scope than onshore unit trusts

investor. The minimum subscription is at least £1,000, and it is often necessary to hold this amount of money in every sub-fund chosen.

Indeed, one of the drawbacks to umbrella funds is that they entail a substantial commitment to a single management group. It is unlikely that any group will achieve the best performance across its full range of funds.

The main question, however, concerns distributor status. If the fund has it, the

investor will be charged income tax on his dividends from the fund, and capital gains tax on profits from the sale of shares, just as he would with a unit trust. If the fund does not qualify, income tax will be charged on income and profits together.

An umbrella fund will be awarded distributor status only if every separate sub-fund satisfies the rules. Currency funds are usually the most problematic, and for this reason some groups do not include any. Others, such as Hill Samuel, choose not to seek distributor status at all, and concentrate mainly on the expatriate market.

Individual offshore funds have much wider scope in their investments than onshore unit trusts. Currencies are one example; others are physical stocks of commodities, and instruments such as futures and options contracts. Commodities can be a valuable investment in times of high inflation or currency uncertainty, and gold also tends to react favourably to political upheavals. They are, however, a risky and expensive business, and the private individual is usually best advised to channel his investment through a fund.

Authorized unit trusts may invest only in commodity shares. As these are essentially equity investments, they are one step removed from commodity markets themselves.

Offshore funds can invest in the real thing. This can bring potentially greater rewards, but also higher risks. As

Continued on facing page

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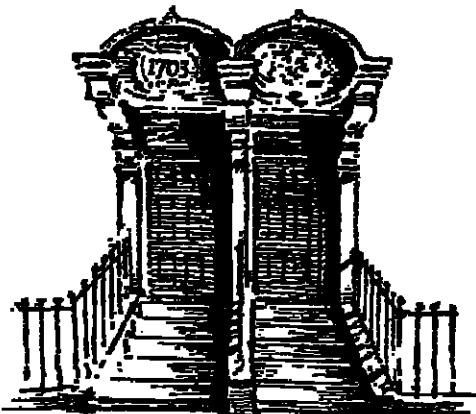
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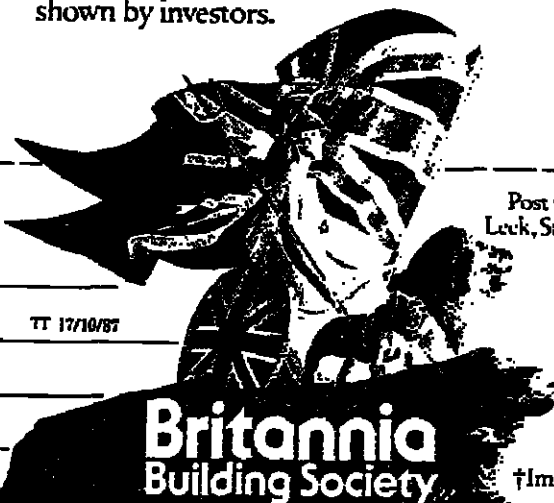
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FAMILY MONEY/11

This pleasant problem of the £20,000 legacy

WINDFALLS

Margaret and George were faced with a pleasant problem — a £20,000 legacy. The first step was to marshal the financial facts about themselves and sum up their financial objectives. For them this was not too complicated. They had simply never done it before.

They married 10 years ago in their mid-20s and have two children, aged seven and five, whom they would like to put into private day schools when each reaches 11. They have a £40,000 endowment mortgage. George earns £20,000 in a large international company and Margaret has a part-time secretarial job, earning £2,500.

Some families are inveterate savers and spenders, regardless of their income and spending needs.

But Margaret and George are reasonably careful managers and more or less break even. Any small surpluses tend to disappear on holidays and new furniture. The car fortunately comes from George's employer.

However, they see that in four or six years school fees could become a problem. Margaret should be able to work slightly longer hours and George might have had a promotion.

But by the time both children are at fee-paying schools, the total annual cost in 1987 prices will be about £3,000, although the actual cost after inflation is bound to be significantly more.

One main priority will be to pay some of the school fees from these funds. Another is to provide a reserve fund in case they hit financial problems. They both know that job security is rather illusory, for George has seen whole divisions of his company closed down in the past five years, and redundant executives in their mid-40s often take as long as a year to find the right new job.

Nevertheless, initially George has taken a more

reducing the mortgage to £20,000 to save even more in monthly repayments. But George argues forcibly that once they have paid off their qualifying mortgage, they could not get it back with tax relief on the interest unless they move house or improve their existing property.

The net cost is just over 8.2 per cent after basic-rate tax relief, which constitutes the cheapest finance generally available.

Moreover, if George does get promotion, he could move into the 40 per cent tax bracket — reducing the effective cost of their mortgage to only 6.75 per cent at current rates.

George likes to think he would be able to pick the best-performing unit trusts that would justify borrowing at 11.25 per cent, let alone 8.2 per cent or 6.75 per cent. With hindsight, he says many UK unit trusts increased by more than 40 per cent in the past 12 months, so borrowing to invest would have been worthwhile for that period.

Margaret's view is that precisely because the UK market has seen such an astonishing

£4,000 to be sure of liquidity

increase in values, the immediate future might be slightly less exhilarating for investors in the equity market.

They decide to invest £3,000 of the remaining £10,000 in a with-profits lump sum school fees plan, whose tax status should give attractive returns.

They invest £2,000 in general UK and international unit trusts so that they may see some of the benefits of further world-wide stock market rises without undue risk.

They put £1,000 after 27 per cent tax relief into a single-premium self-employed pension to catch up on some of the contributions Margaret could have made during her last six years of non-pensionable employment.

The £4,000 balance goes into the building society in order to achieve liquidity, a reasonable return and Margaret's peace of mind.

This leaves the savings made by paying off £10,000 of the mortgage — more than £1,125 a year in interest at current rates.

About £200 will go towards topping up George's and Margaret's life cover and permanent health insurance. The balance will be used to buy a Personal Equity Plan (PEP) invested into a unit trust — they are nervous of buying individual shares — currently limited to £420 a year, with a small unit trust savings plan. That way, they build up their exposure to stock market investments gradually.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Last week some arithmetical gremlins got into the piece on company cars, which might have confused readers. The car benefit scale is halved at over 18,000 business miles. The benefit assessment on a 1300cc car this year is £525; the tax cost at 50 per cent of a 2.3 litre four-year-old second-hand car will be £280 in 1987-88 (rather than £289), compared with the one expensive car costing £20,000, where the tax charge at 50 per cent rates would be £797.50.

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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Courts going on-stream

Computers are starting to make an impact on the civil and criminal justice systems. Desktop computers in lawyers' offices are now commonplace, but until recently the courts have been slow to get computerized. The signs are, however, that courts are now taking computers on board - parallel with the profession's ventures into high-tech.

The Government has announced plans for video links in criminal courts for the taking of evidence from abroad; and also in child abuse cases. But courts are already embarked on their own computerization programmes.

Just how far they have got was revealed last week at a conference organized by the Society for Computers and the Law, chaired by Lord Justice Neill and attended by more than 200 lawyers, computer executives, magistrates' clerks, police, crown prosecutors and civil servants.

The conference, sponsored by Peat Marwick McLintock, Unisys Ltd (formerly Burroughs/Sperry) and Wang UK, showed the Government and the judges have come some way since the days when - as one solicitor, Richard Wright, put it - "a distinguished Lord Justice of Appeal and a retired civil servant could doubt whether the introduction of word processors could be either effective or economically justified".

The aim is now for substantial computerization of the crown and county courts by 1992. At the same time there are plans for computerizing the county court claims registry, extending the police National Identification Bureau so it will allow on-line updating and retrieval of criminal records, and even access by other agencies. The Mark 2 police national computer is on stream for 1991.

In the crown prosecution service, there will be interim, low-cost measures until 1990, and after that standard systems to integrate with wider criminal justice schemes. These will be able to generate such information as conviction rate and "unit costs per case". While in the prison service, plans involve replacing the central prison index and providing information on inmates, staff and administrative functions that can be linked up with other agencies.

In the magistrates' courts, the conference heard about plans to supplement the present post-trial computerized system to include pre-trial processing, data links to the police and communication of results to other organizations such as the

Home Office, and New Scotland Yard.

But Pamela Waugh, from the Lord Chancellor's Department, caused some disappointment when she indicated the current experiment on electronic dissemination of lists to end-users may not be justified more widely, and in particular questioned its use outside London.

The experiment was launched last November in Birmingham, Warwick and Worcester crown court centres. The court lists were transmitted by electronic

The tradition-encrusted law courts are being introduced to computer technology and the pace of change is quickening, says Frances Gibb

mail to Telecom Gold's central computer installation, from where they were selectively forwarded to the "mailboxes" of trial users.

The second phase of the experiment, which involved London court centres, started in July and ends this month. Mrs Waugh, who is responsible for information technology systems in the department, said the findings could not be anticipated, but some points had emerged: that the need for such a system varied considerably throughout the country; and only in the London area had it so far been clearly established. Second, the technical efficiency of the electronic mail network had been poor; and it was questionable whether it saved enough time to show benefits.

Delegates also witnessed a demonstration of the Swindon magistrates' court experiment on listing. The court clerk sits in front of a terminal which is updated every 30 seconds and governs the state of the lists with a mass of other information about current cases before the justices, including details of past payments of the defendant.

Once the case is adjudicated, a laser printer immediately prints out the necessary disposal documentation which is then handed to the defendant before he leaves court. The court clerk can also access a legal database; and can summon up relevant cases, accessed using keyword retrieval techniques.

In the crown court some, if rather

limited, steps are being taken to help behind-the-scenes staff through a scheme called CREST, which envisages the installation of between three and 20 terminals at each of the 70 crown court centres, over a period starting in 1989.

The aim is to help with case management, listing, support costs, accounting and provision of management information. Outlining the project Pamela Waugh argued that lawyers might prefer the Government to go ahead with installing a fax machine in every court or to provide facilities in every court to access legal databases.

David Wood, manager of the Lord Chancellor's Department's project on the County Court Claims Registry, outlined current proposals for computerizing the registry and potential benefits for plaintiffs, defendants and the court service. After a successful experiment at Staines county court, the plan is now to provide by 1992 a central Claims Registry linked to terminals at each of the 200 or so county courts.

At present the majority of the 2.28 million cases started in the county courts are debt recovery cases and 1.2 million are brought by "built plaintiffs", such as rating authorities, finance and mail order houses. The new system would enable these plaintiffs to communicate electronically with the Claims Registry and for defendants to make payments at any county court.

Requests for the issue of summonses or for the entry of default judgements and warrants of execution would all be directed at the claims registry. The county courts themselves would only deal with hearings on debt cases, issues of warrants of execution, progressing of inquiries and receipt of suitors' cash.

Other demonstrations included the Computer Assisted Transcription by Richard Morgan, computer officer to the House of Lords and a mechanical shorthand keyboard device, which as a result of the operator depressing certain keys, keys "available" both on folded paper and on tape cassettes.

The taped data is in machine-readable form, and can be processed by computer to reconstitute the original spoken words.

Things may have come a long way but as far as at least one delegate, solicitor Richard Wright was concerned, they have not come nearly far enough.

Wright, of the London Litigation Solicitors Association, warned that the Government may be overtaken by developments in technology. And he urged a number of developments if the courts are to keep pace with changing needs: a complete listing system covering all High Court and county court actions within five years; word-processing software on computers available to the courts to speed up production of judgements and orders; electronic transmission of funds with the courts so lawyers can send and receive funds; video conferences and electronic message sending.

Lewis v Surrey County Council

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Roskill, Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton [Speeches October 15]

A teacher who was employed under several different short-term contracts by the same employer could not add either the hours worked or the periods of employment under one contract to those of another in order to establish the requisite period of continuous employment for the purpose of making claims for unfair dismissal and redundancy under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the employers, Surrey County Council, from the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Giddens) (The Times August 15, 1986; [1987] ICR 232) who allowed an appeal by the employee, Mrs Elizabeth Lewis, from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (1986) ICR 404.

The appeal tribunal had allowed an appeal by the employers from the decision of the industrial tribunal sitting at Brighton on January 31, 1984, that Mrs Lewis qualified as an employee for the purposes of claims for unfair dismissal and redundancy under the 1978 Act.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC and Mr Christopher Jeans for the employers; Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Ms Laura Cox for the employee.

LORD HAILSHAM said that under the 1978 Act an employee had to be able to show a period of "continuous employment" of one year in the case of the right not to be unfairly dismissed and of two years in the case of the right to receive redundancy.

Subject to a presumption in favour of continuity, the qualifying periods were computed week by week in accordance with the somewhat elaborate provisions of Schedule 13 to the Act. Only weeks during which the parties' relations were governed by "a contract of employment which normally involves employment for 16 hours or more" counted.

The employee, a teacher of photography, had been employed by the employers more or less continuously for about 14 years when her last employment, a contract for a fixed term, was not renewed.

Throughout her periods of engagement she was employed on a series of fixed-term and part-time contracts at one or more of the employers' educational establishments.

The contracts were by the term or by the course at the claimant's institution, and, in consequence, were interrupted by the usual vacations. Nothing would turn on those inter-

Law Report October 17 1987

No addition of short-term contracts

The whole structure of the 1978 employment Act, read with Schedule 13, was built on the supposition that in the qualifying period there had to be a single relationship contained in a single contractual complex, whether oral, in writing, or implied, and whether or not contained in a single document or a number.

There was no room therefore for importing into the relevant paragraph of Schedule 13 any such phrase as would give the meaning "a contract or contracts of employment which normally, whether singly or collectively, involve employment for 16 hours".

LORD ACKNER, concurring, said that at the heart of the right to claim that a dismissal had been unfair or to make the corresponding claim in redundancy lay the loss of employment under the particular contract of employment in relation to which the complaint of termination was made. The relevant provisions all focused on that particular contract.

To allow aggregation of the hours of a number of consecutive short-term periodic contracts involving less than 16 hours but in the aggregate more than 16 hours thereby imposing the obligations contained in sec-

tions 1, 4, 8, 27, 28 and 29 of the Act on each and every such short-term contract would be clearly contrary to the scheme and purpose of section 146(4). The question as to whether there was continuity of employment over a sufficient period of time, which in the light of his Lordship's decision on the aggregation of hours did not arise, depended on the proper interpretation of "a temporary cessation of work" in paragraph 9(1)(b) of Schedule 13.

In *Ford v Warwickshire County Council* ([1983] 2 AC 71) Mrs Ford had been employed on a series of consecutive short-term contracts with a break between the end of one and the beginning of the next, and the House of Lords held that a dismissal which applied to preserve the continuity of her employment.

To his Lordship's mind, the whole thrust of the decision in that case suggested that employment which was not pursuant to contracts in the same series was irrelevant in assessing whether an interval constituted "a temporary cessation".

Lord Bridge, Lord Roskill and Lord Oliver agreed with both speeches. Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co; Seifert Sharpe Williams.

Court of Appeal can see all papers on a Home Secretary's reference

Regina v Callaghan
Regina v Hill
Regina v Hunter
Regina v McKenny
Regina v Walker
Regina v Power
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Stephen Brown [Judgment October 14]

On a reference to the Court of Appeal by the Home Secretary their Lordships held on a preliminary point that there was no reason why they should not read the report of an inquiry by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary or other inquiries or material that had been before the courts in civil proceedings.

The words of section 23 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 in no way prevented the court from examining such material as it thought fit and parties to the appeal could in no way restrict the reading of the court.

The Court of Appeal so held in rejecting the appellants' contention that the court should only consider evidence put before it by the parties to the case and should not read extraneous material.

Section 23 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 provides: "(1) For purposes of this part of this Act the Court of Appeal may, if they think it necessary or

expedient in the interests of justice - (a) order the production of any document, exhibit or other thing connected with the proceedings, the production of which appears to them necessary for the determination of the case;

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, where evidence is tendered to the Court of Appeal under the Court shall, unless they are satisfied that the evidence, if received, would not afford any ground for allowing the appeal, exercise their power of receiving it if - (a) it appears to them that the evidence is likely to be credible and would have been admissible in the proceedings from which the appeal lies on an issue which is the subject of the appeal; and (b) they are satisfied that it was not adduced in those proceedings but that it is a reasonable explanation for the failure to adduce it."

Mr Michael Mansfield and Mr Nicholas Blake, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, William Power and John Walker; Lord Gifford, QC and Mr James Wood, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants Robert Gerard Hunter and Richard McKenny; Mr Igor Judge, QC, Mr Stephen

Mitchell, QC and Mr John F. M. Maxwell for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said the court declined to restrict its reading in the manner suggested by counsel for the appellants. There was no reason in principle why they should not read the report of the inquiry by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary or other similar material, if any matter had been overlooked.

If any such matter was deemed by the court as not to be taken into account, the court could and would dismiss the matter from its mind. Solicitors: DPP.

Correction

In *R v Home Secretary, Ex parte Sivakumaran* (The Times October 13) Mr George Warr appeared as junior counsel with Mr K. S. Nathan, QC.

Law Society exams

The Law Society examination results will be published in The Times on October 30. Copies of that issue will be on sale at 200 Gray's Inn Road from 9.30pm on Thursday, October 29.

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WRITTEN ESTIMATES ON REQUEST

Fox & Kent

Solicitors

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Triptych can reign supreme again in Champion Stakes

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Now that the ground at Newmarket looks certain to be on the soft side, Triptych is expected to emulate last year's Brigadier Gerard by winning the Dubai Champion Stakes a second time.

On better ground, Mito, Don't Forget Me and Most Welcome would all have been hard to beat at their best. As it is, Genobra, Risk Me, Saint Andrew and Blessed Event should be in their element.

However, none of them appears nearly as much as Triptych who won both the Matchmaker International at York and Ireland's Champion Stakes at Phoenix Park when there was give in the ground.

Also, it has long been my contention that 10 furlongs is Triptych's favourite distance even though she has some commendable performances over 1 1/2 miles to her name.

Twelve months ago, her jockey, Tony Cruz, timed his challenge to perfection when the race was run on the July course.

Now he should only have to judge the pace as well as he did that day to score another famous victory since the word from Chantilly is that even that hard race in the Arc has not taken anything out of her.

despite having 9st 10lb to carry, and 27 rivals to beat, Buckley could have had the Tote Cesarewitch at his mercy having escaped being penalised for winning both the Doncaster Cup and the Jockey Club Cup since this handicap was framed.

However, unlike John Chery who humped 9st 13lb to victory 11 years ago, Buckley



Cruz chasing Champion double on Triptych

ley is not a proven mauler and I cannot help feeling that top weight will anchor him this afternoon.

So my short list comprises Revisit, Sun Street and Path's Sister, all of whom have less weight but more important will revel in the current conditions.

With only 7st 13lb on her back, Sun Street is my selection.

Yesterday, her trainer Clive Britzin endorsed George Robinson, our Newmarket Correspondent's glowing assessment of her as the most important workout with the St Leger runner-up, Mountain Kingdom.

Britain added that after looking totally one paced in her youth, Sun Street now appears to have developed a bit of speed with age. He is more than hopeful that she will have an answer to every problem posed this afternoon, especially as she has already won on soft ground and over this extreme distance.

Revisit, as fine a tribute to

trainer Martin Pipe's skill as you will find, and Path's Sister could easily turn out to be greater dangers than Kayodee whose victory two years ago was achieved on totally different ground.

Terminator and Sheer Nectar are other soft ground specialists who spring to mind for the Bodicea Apprentice Handicap.

Considering that the ground was all against him, Terminator ran a marvellous race in the Cambridgeshire to finish third having been just touched by Shabib at Newbury previously.

However the fact remains Sheer Nectar should be much the fresher now and I know that her trainer, Toby Balding, successful with Gold Prospect on Thursday, is hopeful that she will win for Adam Shoultis, who is one of the young riders coming.

Now that Doyoun has been withdrawn, Carmelite Hesse's chance of winning the Philip Cornes Houghton Stakes looks a bit easier. Not that any race of this type is ever plain sailing.

There is also an excellent programme of jumping at Kempton Park. Jumping always does himself justice first time out, but even he should not manage to concede 10lb to Gayer Brief in the Ring and Brymer Hurdle or even a stone to Chryso for that matter.

Everett attempts to win the Chryso Gold Cup a fourth time, but I prefer both his younger stable companion, the Whitbread Gold Cup runner-up Contradeal, and Playschool.

Talented British duo chase Woodbine prize

Mountain Kingdom (Pat Eddery) and Sir Harry Lewis (John Reid) are fancied British raiders (see far right) at Longchamps International (12 furlongs) at Woodbine, Toronto, tomorrow night.

Infamy (Ray Cochrane) can extend her unbeaten season to six in the £122,549 EP Taylor Stakes (10 furlongs) on the same card. The winner of Newmarket's Sun Chariot Stakes can hold the French-trained Khariyda, and Videogame.

Sizzling Melody (Richard Hills), La Petite Noblesse (Paul Cook) and Intimidate (Steve

Cautchen) constitute a strong English challenge for the \$20,878 Prix de Petit Courvert (10 furlongs) at Longchamps tomorrow.

The Arc form receives its first test in Italy tomorrow, when Tony Bin (Cash Amussen) and Tabayan (Walter Swinburn) clash in the £75,581 Grand Premier del Jockey Club (12 furlongs) at San Siro, Milan.

Leiter Pigott's Lady Bentley (Tony Ives) has place chances. William's Bird, fifth behind Diminendo at Ascot, has a fine chance of landing the £22,674 Premier Dornello (1m) for two-year-old fillies.

Cautchen goes one ahead with double

Steve Cautchen now leads Edwary 181 to 180 in a season-long battle for the £100,000 Cautchen Cup, which he won last year.

Cautchen partnered the 9-2 on chance Red Guitars to a half-length victory in the Ilkley Graduation Stakes and was then placed in the Zetland Graduation Stakes.

CATERICK: 420 Cornueta, 445 Bephen.

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8 0050 REALITY GORGEOUS 18 (M) H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
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13 0055 REALITY GORGEOUS 18 (M) H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
14 0056 REALITY GORGEOUS 18 (M) H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0

3.45 HAVING A BLAZE. 4.15 Miss Bagatelle. 4.12 Galathea. 5-1 Anthor Boy. 12-1 Pantomime Dream. 14-1 others.

2.35 BATLEY SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £1,040: 1m 4f) (12)

1 4040 SASSA'S REMEMBRANCE 2K (St) 9-7. T. Oates 10
2 4041 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
3 4042 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
4 4043 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
5 4044 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
6 4045 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
7 4046 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
8 4047 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
9 4048 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
10 4049 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
11 4050 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0
12 4051 LYN RAY (F) M. H. Eddery 9-0. M. H. Eddery 9-0

3.15 MOULTON GRADUATION CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,750: 7

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value up
by £20m

Huddersfield end Macdonald's years of anguish in the wilderness

Absence makes the heart grow fonder for impassioned exile

Malcolm Macdonald renews a love affair with football today which started as a boy sitting on his father's shoulders at Craven Cottage to watch Fulham. Sitting in the manager's chair at Huddersfield Town, where he took over this week, the manager of that team of the fifties tripped easily off his tongue: Black, Quested, Lowe, Bazzani, Stevens. They were the men that fired Macdonald's imagination and laid the foundations of an ambition that is still burning as brightly today as it was when he became a boyhood hero to the thousands who watched his goalkeeping feats with Fulham, Luton Town, Newcastle United and Arsenal in a career that ended when he was only 29 years of age.

He went on to manage Fulham and took them to within a point of the first division four years ago before what should have been his private life cost him the job and sentenced him to three years of exile.

"It left a terrible void," he said. "Saturdays just weren't the same without the involvement I had all my life. I would still go to games but you never know one step removed from everything that went on."

"You could strike a business deal that might be worth quite a few quid to you but it still wouldn't bring the satisfaction of running out to a ball, letting fly and seeing it whizz into the net. The thing I really enjoyed in management was seeing a player develop; seeing the things you had worked on and practised coming off on the field."

Macdonald is still chagrined at the way he was exiled after a turbulent few months, when his decision to leave his wife and five children for a new love was rarely off the pages of the tabloid Press.

"But, in the middle of it all, we had one of our finest results ever when we took Liverpool to three games in the Milk Cup," he said. "We got a draw at Anfield by sheer audacity, going there and playing only three at the back, five in the middle and crowding them out. But I was so proud of the way a young and inexperienced side had done that to a team who went on to win it."

"The years in the wilderness were the worst of my life. Even before I was a professional I used to go to Bishop's Park near the Fulham ground and play in 30-a-side games. One thing that taught you was close control. Then, when I was in my teens, I'd play for the school on Saturday morning, the borough team in the afternoon, turn out on Sunday morning and again in the afternoon."

Now aged 37, he lived on the periphery of the game, representing players as an agent and latterly having a hand in bringing Mirandinha to Tottenham and fostering the belief that other Brazilians would come here at prices considered knockdowns because of raging inflation in South America.

"Absence doesn't diminish talent or ambition," Macdonald says. "I applied for

the job here last year but I understood why they stuck with the man who was doing the job. When the chairman approached me I jumped at the opportunity and already my wife, Nicky, says I am a new man."

His commitment to the struggling second division club is total and he has put his working hours on the market and passed his other business interests into management.

"Within two months we will have moved here, lock stock and barrel. I want to get this club into the first division and can't see any reason why it can't be done. The first object is to take away the fear, build confidence and stop the rot. I always used to say that Jimmy Greaves scored hundreds of goals and I missed thousands but the object is to keep trying to have a go. There's nothing really wrong with shooting and missing half-chances, the crowd loves to see it."

Macdonald, who once played under three managers - Bobby Ransome, John Haynes and Bill Dodgins - in one season at Craven Cottage, knows what it is like for players when a new man comes in. "I've tried to keep it simple and give everyone a job to do which I shall expect to be done to perfection. But, in the end, it all comes down to the fact you have to love the game."

Nobody does that better than Macdonald, whose confidence has already gone a long way towards lifting the collective head of a once great club.

Martin Searby



Silver lining: Macdonald plans to dispel the clouds (Photograph: Barry Wilkinson)

FOOTBALL

FA have second thoughts

By Clive White

The Football Association has backed down over its decision not to allow clubs with artificial pitches to play at home in the FA Cup this season. But Luton Town, one of the clubs involved, have not yet decided whether to drop their High Court action over the ban.

Luton will discuss with their lawyers the decision of the FA to reverse, just for this season, their earlier ruling. The club are a little unhappy that the ruling has not been extended for the full three seasons which artificial pitches have been under a decision taken by the Football League chairman earlier this year.

John Smith, Luton's chief executive, said: "We believed the ban on our pitch for cup ties would not stand up to a court case. It is estimated that legal fees would have amounted to £100,000."

Ted Crocker, the FA secretary, said that he could not explain why the FA Council had reversed their decision. "I'd have to read the minutes of all council meetings," he said.

While the amendment will also benefit Queens Park Rangers, Oldham Athletic and Preston North End, it has come too late for one club. Hyde, of the Northern Premier League, had to move to a natural ground, and lost.

Bannister offers plenty in the test of quality

By Clive White

Peter Shreeve just could not contain himself. He felt he had to applaud the show. "You're not supposed to shout and cheer from the directors' box, are you, but, as a football enthusiast, there were times when I felt I had to."

Shreeve was talking about the smash hit on Merseyside, the Liverpool football team, whom he saw give another dazzling performance against Derby County recently. Shreeve might have added that it is also not the done thing to be seen applauding your major rivals just days before attempting to brainwash your own team into thinking they are a better side. Bill Shankly would rather have eaten his own hands than applauded any of Liverpool's rivals.

But Shreeve is an honest man and, having spent 12 years with Tottenham Hotspur as coach and then manager, he knows quality when he sees it. But the new Rangers coach, while admitting that Liverpool offer more attacking options this season, does not subscribe to the view that they are better side than they

were when sliding the bullets into the barrels of the more than two men, in particular, however, disagree with that view - the Rushes, Ian and his father, Francis, Rush Jr, who was back at Anfield yesterday training with his old teammates during a short stay with his family, said: "My father says they are playing better than they were last season. They have more players scoring goals and more options open to them."

"John Aldridge has done very well. I always felt that he was the one to take over from me. Liverpool is too big a club to miss one man. I feel that they are a better side now. They have the backbone from last season and several good new players. I always felt that Barnes would improve once he joined Liverpool."

Shreeve concedes that while Rangers have passed most of the examinations put before them this season, this is their "A-level". Rangers, however, have no reason to enter the shrine without faith in their own ability. They have had some encouraging results at Anfield in recent years and

Shreeve said that an occasional glance at the league table was helping them to believe in themselves.

In Bannister they have a sharp shooter to rival any of those of Liverpool, present if not past. "Before I came here he was one of those players I thought was half decent. I have a higher opinion of him now," he said. Yet despite widespread respect for the player he has yet to gain international recognition, prompting Shreeve to acknowledge that "perhaps sometimes you need an agent to push your name".

Mark Walters, the Aston Villa forward, clearly has his target set high, turning down a move to Leeds United yesterday. He wants to join another first division club or one on the Continent. But there was some consolation for Leeds when Baird agreed to re-join them just three months after leaving them for Portsmouth. Terms have been agreed at £285,000, which is what Portsmouth paid for Baird. He has missed four games for the club through suspension.

Wigan are backbone of Britain

Keith Macklin

There are eight Wigan players and five players without international experience in the Great Britain squad for the World Cup match against Papua New Guinea at Wigan next Saturday (Keith Macklin writes).

Among the newcomers are Steve Hanson, the Wigan full back, who impressed Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, with his displays for Lancashire against Yorkshire and against the tourists on Wednesday. The Wigan players are Elisey Hanley, the captain, Shaun Edwards, Andy Gregory, David Stephenson, Joe Lydon, Andy Goodway and Brian Case. If Henderson Gill had been fit, he would almost certainly have been the ninth Wigan man in the squad.

Reilly's determination to inject fresh blood into Britain's challenge for the World Cup brings a first selection for Colin Whitfield, the Halifax and Wigan winger and goal keeper. Zook Emma, the Hull Kingston Rovers front-row forward, and two young forwards, Karl Fairbank, of Bradford Northern, and the strong running second row man, Paul Medley, of Leeds.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Steely commitment drives Hampson

Keith Macklin

For two players, Wednesday night's game between Lancashire and the Papua New Guinea tourists held significance far beyond the simple honour of playing for the country.

The first, Steve Hampson, is the Wigan full back of such total, almost foolhardy, commitment, that in consecutive seasons he first broke his arm and then his leg. As a result, he missed Wigan's Challenge Cup final against Widnes and Hull in 1984 and 1985, and at one time believed that his career was over.

Yet he came back with typical courage, and against considerable international competition, he made the Wigan full back place his own again. He gave an outstanding performance for Lancashire in the Roses match against Yorkshire, and was pencilled in by Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, and now takes his place in the Great Britain squad for the international against the Papuans at Wigan next Saturday.

The other man, after only a handful of Rugby League games, with an eye to a Great Britain place - although not this time - Martin Offiah, the speedy but relatively unknown winger signed by Widnes from Rosslyn Park. Despite the usual caution,

indeed, scepticism accorded to Union converts by both team colleagues and spectators, Offiah is now the Naughton Park crowd's favourite.

Offiah was Rosslyn Park's leading try scorer and a Barbarian yet cost Widnes peanuts compared with the fees given to such as Terry Holmes and Stuart Evans. His scorching pace and understanding that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points have brought him eight tries so far this season. He has the true winger's gift of bringing the crowd to its feet every time he gets the ball.

With Henderson Gill currently injured, Offiah is certainly on the short list being compiled by Malcolm Reilly for the 1988 tour of Australasia. He is still raw in terms of experience, but rich in potential, with Widnes hoping that his ability does not make him too much of a marked man as the season unfolds.

Reilly has stated his determination to take to Australia a squad of fit, keen and totally committed players, many of whom will combine young limbs with old heads in the Shaun Edwards mould. In Hampson and Offiah, there are signed by Widnes from Rosslyn Park. Despite the usual caution,

BADMINTON

Trapped Halsall escapes to victory

By Richard Eaton

Sara Halsall, hemmed in by high winds and 15 fallen trees, walked a mile and a half, found herself a lift, and played her way to her biggest pay-day in the British Airways Masters at the Albert Hall yesterday.

The enterprising woman from Southampton, aged 20, did it by overruling singles champion Hoogland, the Dutch international, 7-11, 11-4, 11-5, to earn a guaranteed £500 by reaching the semi-finals. Yet she nearly did not reach the venue.

"We could not drive out of the house and could not even get a line on the telephone because they were blown down. It was getting a bit desperate," she said. Eventually she made contact with her fellow England international, Gill Clark, who picked her up.

Halsall's aggressive but variable talents then focused themselves into one of her more consistent displays. She will today face one of the biggest tests of her career, with a singles place in England's Uber Cup team beckoning.

Later, Gillian Gilks, a Uber Cup stalwart, came to a sudden and unexpected stop. The former world No. 1, aged 37, sat down on court in the middle of the third game of mixed doubles with Martin Dew and announced that her back was too painful to continue.

Meanwhile, another old favourite, Prakash Padukone, the All England singles champion from seven years ago, looked almost his old self. The man from Bangalore ousted Shingo Matsura, from Japan, in straight sets in the quarter-final. Prakash, despite giving up his domicile in Copenhagen, showed his familiarity with European conditions.

There was a velvety and witty elegance about much of his work. He had him the appearance of a magician pulling rabbits out of a hat. Even though he is now in the autumn of his career, it may not be beyond him to challenge for a place in the final and yet another triumph over his nemesis, Morten Frost, the titleholder.

RESULTS: Men's singles: First round: Halsall (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Matsura (JPN) 12-15, 10-15, 10-15; Frost (DEN) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Prakash (IND) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Gilks (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Dew (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Clark (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Hanson (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Edwards (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Fairbank (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Medley (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Whitfield (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Zook (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Hanley (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Stephenson (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Gregory (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Lydon (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Goodway (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; Case (GB) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10.

TENNIS

Champion loses a contract

By Barry Wood

The Japanese company, Yonex, has cancelled its contract with the Wimbledon champion, Martina Navratilova, and left her with a new racket endorsement.

Miss Navratilova is scathing in her criticism of the company, claiming it failed to take her seriously when asked to make her a new racket.

"I had been having problems playing with Yonex, especially in Europe. The balls are heavier," she said. "I was unable to get enough power and so, last January, I asked the company to make me a racket that was lighter. They refused. But my request went unheeded. They thought I was just kidding around unfortunately and my request didn't get to the top."

Miss Navratilova chose to use a Dunlop Max 200G, with identical characteristics. But, although she has been more than happy with the result, winning both Wimbledon and the United States Open, she is unlikely to sign a contract with the British manufacturer.

"They have Steffi and McEnroe and they probably couldn't justify all three of us," she added. "There is the one I am using now but I haven't gone out and tried any other yet. Dunlop are not paying me."

CYCLING

Douce wary of all obstacles before Lincoln

By Peter Bryan

Steve Douce, national cyclo-cross champion for the last three years, found ready-made obstacles training courses around his Caterham, Surrey, home after Thursday night's gales but he said his first two hours road work for tomorrow's first of the Hordworth National Trophy Series at Lincoln.

Douce won the season's opening race three weeks ago and then went to Switzerland for five events. He was signed by Raleigh in midsummer and expects to be on the Continent to be riding in Belgium, France and Italy before the world championships next February in Basel.

He is favourite for tomorrow's race. The South Common at Lincoln will be a way of two artificial obstacles which have been introduced to break the riders' rhythm. His main challengers are likely to be the Yorkshireman, David Baker and Chris Young. Young beat him for the national title in 1984.

EEC keeps track of supporters

By John Goodbody

Football supporters will be closely monitored when travelling to West Germany for next summer's "European Championship", English referees for the tournament.

Ian McGregor, the Assistant Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, said yesterday that countries in Western Europe would be exchanging information on the movement of football supporters as part of a combined European Community drive to eliminate hooliganism.

McGregor was speaking after this week's first conference of European Permanent Correspondents in London. This was a formalisation of a procedure which has been in operation since 1974," he said. "But it was very useful to meet the other correspondents face-to-face."

The correspondents, one in each of the 12 countries, exchange information on the movement of football enthusiasts. McGregor said that for the European Championship, England supporters could be going to West Germany by a variety of routes including crossing Belgium, The Netherlands or France, all members of the Community.

"The biggest worry is often when fans stop in small towns and villages. But police forces can be alerted ahead by their colleagues in both their own countries and other countries."

Ulster facing difficult first-round tie

The minnows of the Irish League are out in force this afternoon in an attempt to gain a place in the semi-finals of the League Cup (George Ace writes).

The most daunting task of all Ulster's Ulster University, Coleraine, who travel to Walsley Park for a first round tie against the holders, Linfield, who welcome back the top League scorer, Martin McCoombe. Ulster have yet to register a goal in eight B division games this season and have conceded 23.

Harland and Wolff Workers, however, will in no way be overgrazed by their trip to Scriver, where they meet senior opposition in Crusaders. The Workers are a well-balanced side fully capable of stretching a Crusaders team that is still seeking a measure of consistency this season.

First division

Charlton v Derby
Sage is Derby's only concern with a strained groin. Division is a little unsettled after suspension. Charlton will be unchanged.

Chelsea v Coventry
Coventry have not decided yet whether to recall Speedie, who has played only two reserve games since being suspended with an infected foot. He was named as substitute for last week's postponed game. Chelsea will be without Curie, who suffered concussion playing for the Scotland under-21 team. Wilson deputises. Pates returns after knee trouble in place of Roddy.

Liverpool v QPR
Liverpool will be unchanged now that Nicol has recovered from the rib injury which kept him out of Scotland's game. Rangers will be unchanged since Foreday has not completely recovered from a hamstring injury. Foreday has been out of the Scotland side for six weeks. Fotherby has not completely recovered from a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Scotland side for six weeks. Fotherby has not completely recovered from a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Scotland side for six weeks.

Luton v Wimbledon
Hill of Luton, faces a test on a knee injury. McDonough stands by. Weir has recovered from a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Scotland side for six weeks. Fotherby has not completely recovered from a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Scotland side for six weeks. Fotherby has not completely recovered from a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Scotland side for six weeks.

Southampton v Watford
McClendon, who missed the Northern Ireland game in midweek because of food poisoning, is included in the Watford squad as is Jackott, who returned to competition with Wales after an ankle injury. Clarke, Southampton's leading scorer, requires a test on a thigh he injured in a midweek international. Robson stands by. Bainton returns from injury as Townsend begins a suspension. Burridge makes his debut in goal in place of Flowers. Southampton have not won in nine games.

Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wed
Pearson, signed from Shrewsbury, is certain to make his debut for Wednesday. Forest are unchanged as Fleming is still recovering from a thigh strain.

Sheff Wed v Norwich
Sheff Wed is expected to play for West Ham despite suffering an ankle injury in training. Hill has passed a test on damaged ankle ligaments for Oxford.

Second division
Bradford City v Birmingham
With, who broke his arm in his first game for Birmingham upon his return to the club on loan a month ago, is back in the squad. He or Kennedy will stand in for Whetton, who is suspended. Abbott, who has missed Bradford's last game, will play in the second half in the squad. A hamstring injury continues to keep Fletcher out.

Ipswich v Manchester City
Vandri returns for City after recovering from a thigh strain. Stevens will play his first game for six weeks in place of Gilmour, who is suspended. Stevens' damaged ankle is a concern. Vandri, Ipswich recall Dozzani and Zondervan after injury.

Tomorrow
Tottenham v Arsenal
Arsenal, who are unchanged, will play their first game since the FA Cup fourth round tie, which has Achilles tendon trouble, but he is expected back next week. Richardson or Hayes deputises. Parks will play his first game of the season for Tottenham in place of Clemence, who has a groin injury. Watkin and Cline Allen must prove their fitness.

Man United v Norwich

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Castleford test Reilly's heart

Keith Macklin

Castleford are the favourites in their third successive final and are boosted by the return of Kevin Ward, their powerful forward, but Northern are undoubtedly the most improved side in the first division.

In the Bradford park Jeff Grayson continues to defy the years, and is desperate to win his first "winner" medal at the fourth attempt. Behind him there is a lively back division spearheaded by Phil Ford, the elusive winger who has just been named in the Great Britain squad for the World Cup game with Papua New Guinea. It should be a close game, but Northern can take advantage of Castleford's below-par form to bring success back to Odsal.

In the first division, Wigan have many injury doubts for the home game with Halifax, and there are exciting games in prospect for the other two South Eastern League sides. Warrington entertain Leeds and Widnes are at home to Hull Kingston Rovers, while Papua New Guinea should put their unorthodox and exciting skills to winning effect at Swinton.

Miss Navratilova chose to use a Dunlop Max 200G, with identical characteristics. But, although she has been more than happy with the result, winning both Wimbledon and the United States Open, she is unlikely to sign a contract with the British manufacturer.

"They have Steffi and McEnroe and they probably couldn't justify all three of us," she added. "There is the one I am using now but I haven't gone out and tried any other yet. Dunlop are not paying me."

Steve Douce, national cyclo-cross champion for the last three years, found ready-made obstacles training courses around his Caterham, Surrey, home after Thursday night's gales but he said his first two hours road work for tomorrow's first of the Hordworth National Trophy Series at Lincoln.

Douce won the season's opening race three weeks ago and then went to Switzerland for five events. He was signed by Raleigh in midsummer and expects to be on the Continent to be riding in Belgium, France and Italy before the world championships next February in Basel.

He is favourite for tomorrow's race. The South Common at Lincoln will be a way of two artificial obstacles which have been introduced to break the riders' rhythm. His main challengers are likely to be the Yorkshireman, David Baker and Chris Young. Young beat him for the national title in 1984.

Reilly's determination to inject fresh blood into Britain's challenge for the World Cup brings a first selection for Colin Whitfield, the Halifax and Wigan winger and goal keeper. Zook Emma, the Hull Kingston Rovers front-row forward, and two young forwards, Karl Fairbank, of Bradford Northern, and the strong running second row man, Paul Medley, of Leeds.

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Weekend sport goes soldiering on despite tempest

By John Goodbody

Most of the weekend's sports events will take place despite severe damage to some stadiums, clubhouses, pavilions, and particularly trees on golf courses, caused by the tempest that crossed England.

Sport largely continued to be played yesterday, although several clubs across the country were inspecting insurance forms as they began clearing up the debris and making temporary repairs to facilities.

At the Suntory World Match Play Golf Championship at Wentworth, only the last six holes of the first round could be played and £30,000 was lost at the gate. The competition was moved forward 24 hours and is now scheduled to end on Monday.

The force of the winds caused all the beer

tents to be destroyed and an entrance tent, measuring 120 feet by 20 feet, was uprooted and ended up on the roof of the clubhouse. The main scoreboard, supported by girders, was pushed back a foot and all the crowd-control barriers were toppled.

Peter German, the tournament director, said: "I had to use a chain saw to get past seven trees to reach the clubhouse as every single road into the estate was blocked. When I got to the clubhouse there was total devastation."

Trees had fallen all round the course and the 15-strong greenkeepers cleared eight holes of branches and twigs.

The first Women's Professional World Team Challenge golf tournament at Broome Park, near Canterbury, had to be abandoned because of storm damage,

costing the organizers an estimated £25,000. John Latham, the head greenkeeper, said it would take three months to get the course back into shape.

Five greens almost disappeared from view and some trees were ripped out of the ground, gouging holes of root and soil over 12 feet in diameter out of the turf.

Many other courses in Southern England, such as Royal Mid-Surrey, Woking and Coombe Hill, reported particular damage to trees while at Royal St George's, some roofing from one clubhouse blew 50 yards and became embedded in the 18th green. A spokesman said: "It is sticking up like a shark's fin." The loss of trees at several courses is particularly irksome because it is only a few years since they

were planted to replace those suffering Dutch Elm Disease.

The first Westminster Regatta, which was scheduled for this afternoon, has been postponed until tomorrow. The storm blew down two trees which fell across the trailers shattering most of the boats that had been borrowed for the overseas crews, including the Soviet Union, Italy and France.

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, who will attend the regatta tomorrow to present the prizes for the House of Commons Race, will also have the opportunity to inspect the damage to the trees in Hyde Park since part of his duties include responsibility for the upkeep of the parks.

There were six casualties at the Johnnie Walker world sailing speed record attempts

at Portland Harbour with six craft damaged beyond immediate repair including Icarus, the world record-holding catamaran. But racing began at 9.30 a.m.

An army of workmen toiled throughout the night to repair storm damage at Newmarket in an attempt to ensure today's £100,000 Champion Stakes meeting goes ahead. Yesterday's meeting was called off as the £2.5 million new stand was damaged, hospitality marquees were flattened and a long stretch of running rail blown over. It is the first time since 1908 that the weather has claimed a Newmarket fixture.

Although last night's Oldham versus Crystal Palace fixture was postponed because the gales tore off part of a stand roof, none of today's football league matches has been called off.

END COLUMN

Holding out on a world tour

By Mark McCormack

Head of the International Management Group and a BBC TV golf commentator.

The Suntory World Match Play Championship this week at Wentworth is one of the few events in which most of the world's best golfers are competing. I am reminded of recent articles, in the wake of Europe's two successive Ryder Cup victories, which suggested that the United States PGA tour must now open its doors to overseas players.

That will not happen. The restrictive policies are a result of that tour being run by the players and controlled by the 150 or so who are beneath the top echelon, which I have criticized previously in *The Times* and elsewhere. The tour is therefore insular and isolationist by definition.

Through its one-man, one-vote system, the US tour controls the US tour with considerable self-interest. It is obviously hurting American golf. If I were a young golfer, my response might be: why bother playing in America?

Twenty years ago someone such as José María Olazábal had no choice but to go to the United States to prove himself as a world-class player. Now that is not necessary. He can go, or he can stay in Europe. It makes no difference.

Conversely, young Americans such as Scott Verplank might be well advised to develop their games over here in Europe. Just compare the strength of fields in the German Masters and the Pensacola Open last weekend. Six of the world's top 10 (non-Americans) were in Stuttgart, and only three of the top 25 were in Pensacola, Florida.

Team from Sony world rankings

America once claimed a majority of the world's best golfers; they now definitely have a minority. This was in evidence at the Ryder Cup, America's first-ever loss at home, which I thought was one of the most meaningful events in golf of the past two decades.

What has been overlooked in the reviews of the Ryder Cup, however, is the strength and depth of players beyond Europe or America. One could pick a team from the Sony world rankings that would be a match for either Ryder Cup side.

My selection of such a team would include people like Greg Norman, Roger Davis, Peter Senior, Graham Marsh, David Graham and Ian Baker-Finch, from Australia; Tommy Nakajima, Ian Anli, Jumbo Ozaki and Masayuki Kuranaka, from Japan; Mark McNulty, Nick Price and Denis Watson, from Zimbabwe; David Frost, from South Africa, and T. C. Chen from Taiwan.

Among those 15 golfers are three of the world's top 10, and one could pick a team of 12 players presently holding nearly 7,000 Sony ranking points. Europe's Ryder Cup team had four of the top 10, but only 6,400 points in total. The American team had the other three from the top 10 and 7,074 points.

The Sony rankings could not, of course, predict that the world's No. 12, Eamonn Darcy, would defeat the No. 12, Ben Crenshaw, but that is the thrill of competition.

It is a shame that first-rate international competition occurs so infrequently, and that we have made so little progress towards anything resembling a world tour. The US PGA tour continues to try to strangle the growth of the game around the world. Golf will not accept that status quo very much longer.

Johnson leads despite her late problems

By Patricia Davies

In spite of her continuing inability to master the 18th hole, Britain's Trish Johnson was leading by two shots after the third and penultimate round of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association's final qualifying tournament at Sweetwater Country Club, Texas, on Thursday.

Miss Johnson took six after going into the water at the last, a par four which has proved to be the hardest hole on the course, and she had to be content with a round of 75, which is three over par. Her total of 218 left her two ahead of Laurel Kean, of Ohio, and three ahead of Caroline Pierce, of Sussex, who now lives and plays golf in the United States. Miss Pierce's 70 equalled the best round of the day.

Another attempt to break down the mean defence

By Clive White

Tottenham Hotspur aim to strike a blow for positive football before a nationwide television audience tomorrow at White Hart Lane by penetrating an Arsenal defence that David Platt, the Tottenham manager, describes as the meanest in the English game.

Seven consecutive predecessors have already failed, and Tottenham may have to attempt the task without their two outstanding attackers, Waddle and Clive Allen, who both missed England's international against Turkey on Wednesday, and certainly without their most famous defender, Clemence, who has a groin injury.

Platt said that Parks, who fell out of favour at the club after a drunken driving ban a couple of years ago, has the opportunity to displace him from buying a replacement for Clemence, who retires at the end of the season. He last played for the senior side against Everton in the final match of last season.

Of Waddle and Clive Allen, Platt said: "Both have done more in training this week than previously, and are closer to playing than at any time recently. But I will leave a decision until after they have trained on Saturday."

Tottenham are desperately keen to avenge three home defeats - including two in the

Littlewoods Cup semi-final last season by Arsenal, who were the last team to win at Tottenham, 14 matches ago. But the away team invariably hold the edge in these north London derbies, as Peter Shreeve, a former Tottenham manager, recalled.

Talking of the problems of scoring against the present Arsenal side, he said that opposing teams got more off-side decisions against them in deep positions against Arsenal.

More football on page 47

than any other side in the first division. "They're thinking of it all the time. They've worked at it for two years with more or less the same set of players," he said. "No matter how much you forewarn players, they still come off the field losing 2-0 without having had a shot at their goal."

"George Graham is one of the best coaches around at getting players to defend well. Their current record is quite magnificent. It's down to good organization rather than individual parts."

Platt believes his own side are pretty mean too. "Fairclough has been a revelation; Mabbutt would always be in any team of mine; and Stevens has come back to solve a problem position for us and made me think again about

buying. We had five right backs last season."

Conscious of the criticism about Arsenal's tactics, Graham pointed out that three of his defenders - Sansom, Thomas (twice) and Adams - have scored this season.

While he was concerned that more importance would be attached to a victory than the performance, Graham refuted the idea that the abundance of derbies in the capital were stifling the aspirations of London's leading clubs. "In every game there are three points to be won. It's the same for Liverpool and for everyone else," he said.

While the tactical outlooks of Platt and Graham may differ, they are united in their determination to make sure that the capital efforts of last season do not turn out to be a one-year wonder. There are currently four London clubs in the top seven.

Platt said: "At the start of last season I said that we wanted to challenge Merseyside in some way. I called it London pride and I think last year we did restore some pride. We got to the FA Cup final and Arsenal won the Littlewoods Cup, and we finished third and fourth in the league. Let's now see if the performance of the two sides on Sunday reflect anything that might challenge Merseyside."

Big guns emerge from the trees

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

In one respect, everything went according to plan at Wentworth yesterday: Mark McNulty, Sandy Lyle, Ian Woosnam and Severiano Ballesteros were seeded to come through the rain delayed first round of the Suntory World match play championship. They duly did, although Lyle, almost inevitably, had a narrow shave.

That apart, it was quite one of the most extraordinary days. Ballesteros, for instance, zig-zagged his way to the club between the fallen trees, the legacy of the overnight havoc, and likened it to "being in Vietnam without guns".

Ballesteros was as ill prepared for a round of golf as he has ever been. Usually a sound sleeper, he spent the best part of the night flicking the light on and off. "I couldn't sleep because of the howling wind," he said. "A car had been ordered to pick us up at 7 o'clock, but when it didn't come my brother, Vicente and I decided to walk. We were very careful and worried,

Today's tee-off times

QUARTER-FINALS: 08.30 and 13.00: G Norman (Aus) v. M McNulty (SA); 08.45 and 13.15: S Lyle (GB) v. S Lyle (GB); 09.00 and 13.30: S Ballesteros (Esp) v. S Simpson (US); 09.15 and 14.00: I Woosnam (GB) v. N Faldo (GB).
WENTWORTH ON TV
TODAY: Grandstand: BBC1: 12.15 and 3.0 p.m. approx. (subject to alteration).
Sports Special: Highlights: BBC1: 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).
TUESDAY: BBC2: 2.40-3.0 p.m. BBC2: 3.0-4.25 p.m. or on BBC1. Sports Special: Highlights: BBC2: 12.30 a.m. (Monday).

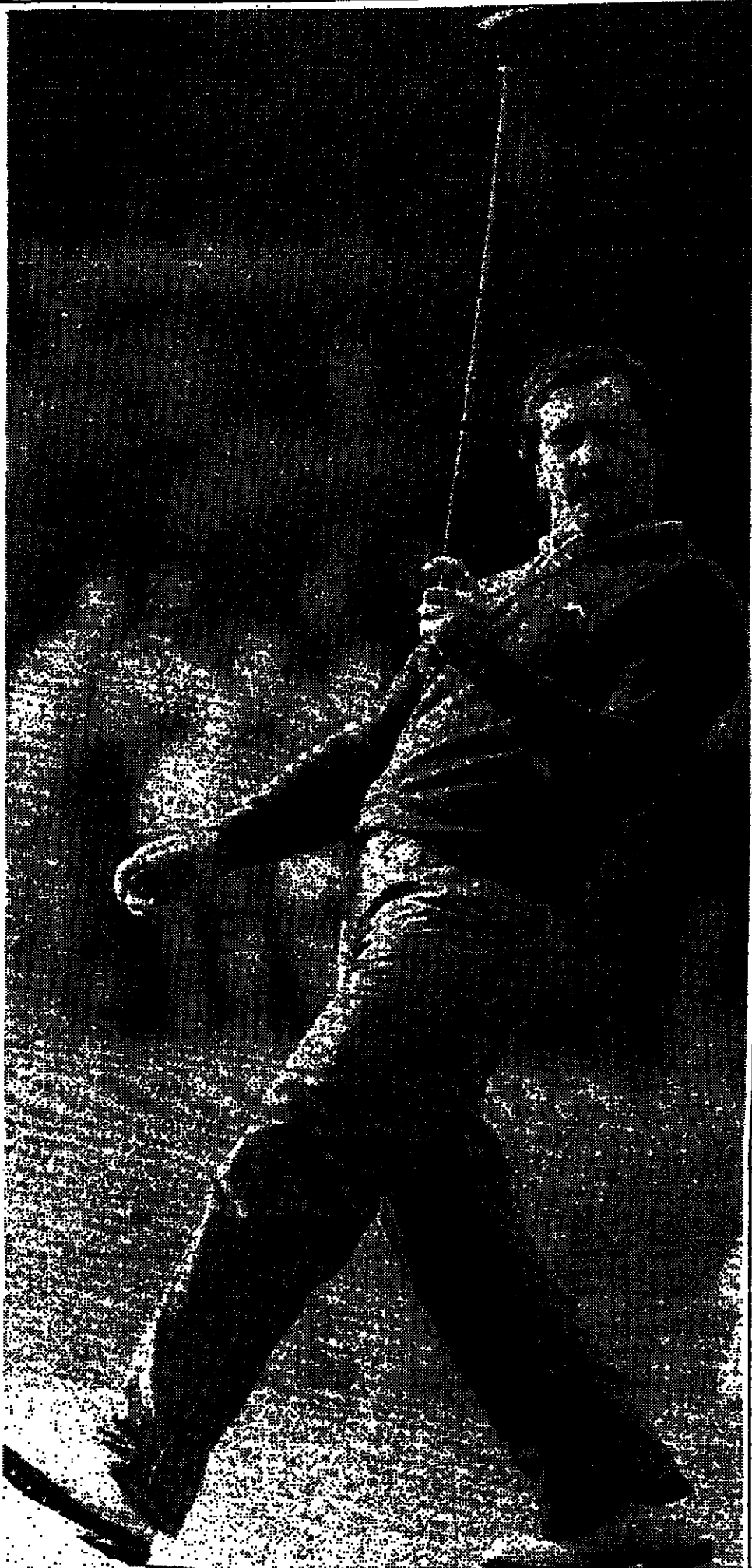
because of the possibility of more trees coming down."

Ballesteros offered praise to Katsunari Takahashi, his Japanese opponent, whom he beat 2 and 1, and expressed the hope that the championship would continue to be decided by 36-hole contests. Ballesteros was granted his wish and faces Scott Simpson, the US Open champion, this morning over the full distance in the quarter-finals. The final will be on Monday.

So Greg Norman, the holder will hopefully move into action this morning when his opponent will be McNulty, of Zimbabwe. Howard Clark made a valiant attempt to keep his match alive by holing a putt of 25-feet for a birdie at the 35th, but McNulty followed him in from 15 feet to win 2 and 1. Earlier, Woosnam, who now meets Larry Mize, the US Masters champion, but he seemed more concerned with his garden shed. "I replaced the old one, which had been there for donkey's years, four months ago. Now there is a big oak tree laid across it," he said.

The organizers and green staff must be applauded for their marvellous efforts in completing the first round, which was held over from Thursday. It was a supreme team effort personified by Vicky Richards, German's secretary, who was forced to thumb a lift in vehicles ranging from a greenkeeper's van to a Jaguar XJ6 to reach the course on time through the blocked roads.

Outside Wentworth the roads were lined with cars



Blowing the sails out of Wentworth: Severiano Ballesteros celebrates during his 2 and 1 win over Katsunari Takahashi in the Suntory World Match Play Championship yesterday

YESTERDAY'S SCORES

HOLE	Overnight	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
YARDS		441	178	468	380	571	502	471	155	571
PAR		4	3	4	4	5	5	4	3	5
M McNulty	2nd	5	3	4	4	4	2	5		
H Clark		5	3	4	4	4				
A Lyle	All Round	5	3	4	4	5	5	4	3	4
D Ishii		5	2	5	3	6	5	4	3	5
S Ballesteros	2nd	5	3	4	4	4				
K Takahashi		5	3	4	4					
I Woosnam	4th	4	3	4						
S Randolph		4	3	4						

parked here, there and everywhere by hardy supporters. They came not knowing what to expect and Lyle at least gave them something to remember. He had been four down to David Ishii of Hawaii. In the end, he won at the 38th with a marvellous chip and putt birdie. Lyle now meets Larry Mize, the US Masters champion, but he seemed more concerned with his garden shed. "I replaced the old one, which had been there for donkey's years, four months ago. Now there is a big oak tree laid across it," he said.

"You never can win."

Off and running

Roger Black, Kriss Akabusi and Todd Bennett, the British 400 metres internationalists, will today launch the national fund raising effort of Grant Thornton in aid of the British Olympic Association Appeal for the 1988 Games.

They will send off runners, representing 53 offices of the Chartered Accountants firm, from London's Euston Station. The runners will carry Olympic-style torches for collections in city centres.

Short cut

Sydney (AP) - Jeff Fenech, of Australia, retained his World Boxing Council super-bantamweight title with a points victory over the Mexican, Carlos Zarate, when the fight was stopped after the fourth round with the champion cut under his right eye. The American referee ruled the cut was caused by an accidental clash of heads.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Jones: Boston race

Filing charges

Minneapolis (Agencies) - The National Football League Players Association, seeking a settlement that a 24-day strike failed to produce, filed a lawsuit in the federal district court here, alleging that the owners conspired to violate anti-trust laws.

Jones runs

Steve Jones, Britain's top marathon runner, who missed the World Championships with a leg injury, will compete in the Boston half-marathon next month.

Earth moving

Leicester Rugby Club are to remove the notorious mound at their Welford Road ground. The earth hill has been unsuitable for spectators since the introduction of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act and will be replaced by an all-weather training surface.

Blue notes

Chelsea are to re-record their hit single *Blue Is The Colour* as part of the club's campaign to stay at their Stamford Bridge ground. The song was one of the most successful football records, selling more than 200,000 copies and reaching No. 5 in the charts 15 years ago. Proceeds will go the £15 million campaign.

Final repeat

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Diego Maradona will play for Argentina against West Germany here in a friendly international, a rematch of last year's World Cup football final, on December 16.

INVESTMENTS WISE AND FOOLISH

No 3

In 1886, Coca-Cola sales averaged 9 drinks a day at the local Atlanta, Georgia, soda fountain. Asa G. Candler, believing the drink had potential, paid \$2300 for sole ownership of it in 1891. By the time the Candler interests were sold in 1919, Coca-Cola had grown so much that the new buyers had to pay \$25 million.



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